Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

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OPINION METER

This week's poll:

At this point, have you already chosen which gubernatorial candidate to vote for in the November elections?

Let your voice be heard! Go to www.saipantribune.com to cast your vote.

PANDEMIC ALERT STATUS PHASE 5

As of June 1, 2009

Phase 1: Viruses circulating among animals have yet to cause infections in humans.

Phase 2: An animal influenza virus is causing infection in humans, and is considered a potential pandemic threat.

Phase 3: An animal or human-animal influenza virus has caused sporadic cases or small clusters of disease in people, but has not resulted in human-to-human transmission sufficient to sustain community-level outbreaks.

Phase 4: Verified human-to-human transmission of an animal or human-animal influenza virus able to cause "community-level outbreaks."

Phase 5: A strong signal that a pandemic is imminent and that the time to finalize the organization, communication, and implementation of planned mitigation measures is short.

Phase 6: The pandemic phase, is an indication that a global pandemic is underway.

For more information about the H1N1 flu, contact DPH at 236-8797, Monday to Friday, from 8am to 5pm, 234-8950 during after hours, e-mail cnmipheoc@gmail.com, or visit www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/.

Source: CNMI Department of Public Health, World Health Organization

INSIDE

Movie Awards

The MTV Movie Awards were a blood bath Sunday night with "Twilight" taking five trophies.

LIFE & STYLE...Page 19

NMC student president Mereb quits position. **PAGE 3**

'Irregularities' seen in previous CPA board travels. **PAGE 5**

Water shortage on Saipan

- CUC cites moderate drought in past 6 months
- Some areas to get 1 to 13 hours of water service

PROPOSED SERVICE HOURS

AREA	DAYS	HOURS
Lower As Teo	Mon, Wed, Fri, Sun	5am - 6pm
Egigi Drive	Tues, Thurs, Sat	5am - 6pm
Capital Hill	Daily	5am - 1pm
Wireless Ridge	Daily	5am - 1pm
1300 Block	Daily	5am - 1pm
Talafofo	Daily	5am - pm
Garapan/99 Cents to Japanese Jail	Daily	5am - 7am
W. Garapan Winchell's to Fire Station	Daily	6am - 7am

CONTACT INFO

To report leaks: 235-0282
To report water theft, meter tampering: 483-4027

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Moderate drought conditions in the past six months and a complete lack of significant rainfall since the second half of 2006 has resulted in close to 1 million gallons of lost water production a day on Saipan, which may soon cause one hour to 13 hours of water service daily in some areas on the island, the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. said.

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Fitial says decision to end Aggreko 'far from certain'

CUC emergency extended anew

Fitial

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial said the decision to terminate the contract of Aggreko International "is far from certain," a few weeks after saying the contract will no longer be renewed.

Aggreko's contract will expire on Sept. 12. However, the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. has to notify Aggreko this month whether its contract

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RELATED NEWS

2-hour islandwide power outage due to fallen tree. **PAGE 6**

9 percent drop in foreign investors

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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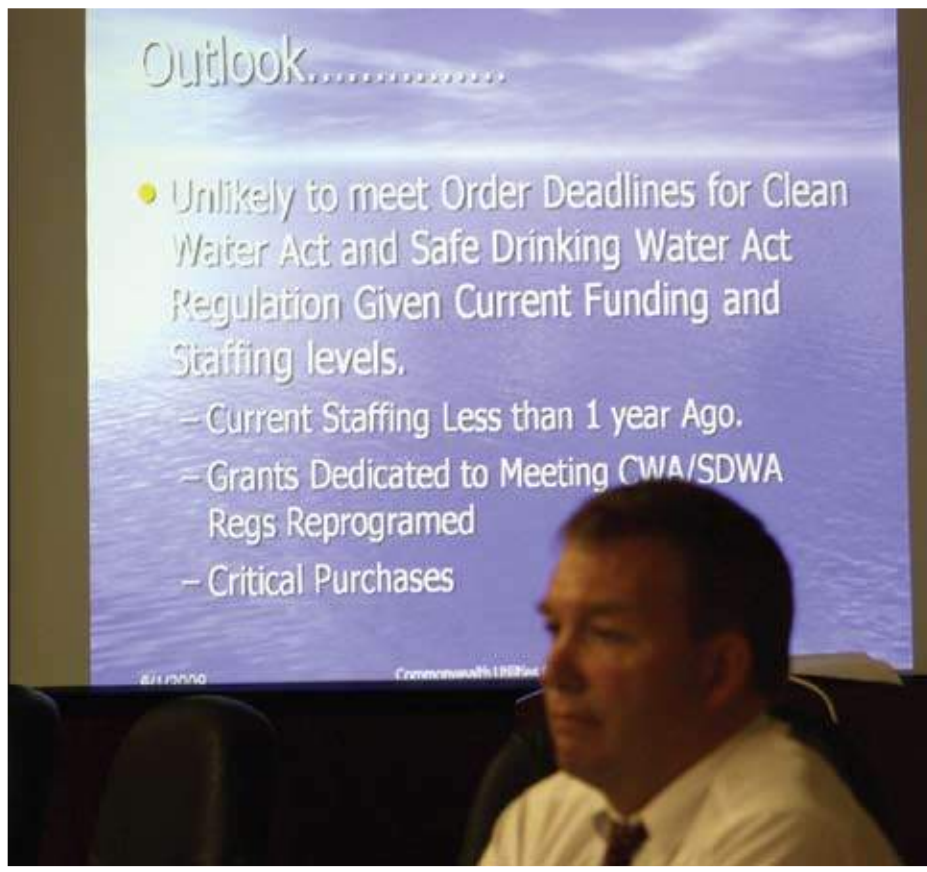
REPORTER

Commerce Secretary Michael J. Ada said the CNMI has seen a 9 percent drop in the number of foreign investors, mostly holding long-term business certificates, from 486 in September 2008 to 477 as of yesterday.

A long-term business certificate is renewable every two years, and requires new foreign investors to meet the

See 9 PERCENT on Page 4


Outlook.....
Unlikely to meet Order Deadlines for Clean Water Act and Safe Drinking Water Act Regulation Given Current Funding and Staffing levels.
– Current Staffing Less than 1 year Ago.
– Grants Dedicated to Meeting CWA/SDWA Regs Reprogramed
– Critical Purchases

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Bruce Megarr, CUC deputy director for water and wastewater, presents the status of CUC's compliance with the stipulated orders during a Public Utilities and Infrastructure Committee meeting.

'CUC unlikely to meet EPA deadlines'

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp., is unlikely to meet the federal stipulated order deadlines because of lack of funding and staff, according to Bruce Megarr, deputy director for water and wastewater.

Megarr reported this yesterday to the Public Utilities and Infrastructure Committee chaired by Rep. Tina Sablan in the Senate chamber.

In March, U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Alex

See CUC on Page 4

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Local

PIC chefs are champions in Taste competition

NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.
The two winning chefs of Pacific Islands Club, Bel Gurundi and Chuzi Rios, are flanked by executive chef Darren Ferrall and general manager Kieran Daly during the awarding ceremonies of the "Beef and Reef" Chefs' Competition at the 2009 Taste of the Marianas International Food Festival and Beer Garden last Saturday at the American Memorial Park.

By NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.
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REPORTER

Pacific Islands Club made it two in a row at the Taste of the Marianas Food Festival and Beer Garden as its two-man crew took home the first prize in the annual chefs' competition last Saturday.

Competing for the first time in the event, partners Chuzi Rios and Bel Gurundi pocketed the top purse of $500, trophies, and the perpetual trophy.

Last year's winner, Marianas Resort, did not compete this year.

The chefs' challenge, with the theme "Beef and Reef," capped the series of competitions in the last four Saturdays at the American Memorial Park.

PIC also won the first and second prizes in the bartending competition held the previous Saturday.

Rios and Gurundi garnered 460 points with their entry—certified Angus beef flank steak stuffed with Basil Fontina cheese with shrimp Chablis sauce, and Marianas Sweet Shrimp cakes and grilled flank steak.

"I've been here every year but this is the first time for me to join the competition," said Rios, who has been with PIC for the last 12 years.

His partner, Gurundi, has been with the hotel for three years.

The tandem of Pedro C. Sique and Jay Foster of Fiesta Resort and Spa got 408 points for second place. They won $300 and trophies.

Edwin Ocenar and Alvin Dela Cruz of Hyatt Regency Saipan placed third after getting 396 points, winning $200 and trophies. Palms Resort Saipan was fourth with 346 points while Aqua Resort Club, fifth with 336 points.

PIC general manager Kieran Daly and executive chef Darren Ferrall were present to support their contingent.

"I've been with PIC for the past seven years and this is the first time that we won the competition. We put more effort this time. Our new executive chef did a good job with the boys," Daly said.

He said Rios and Gurundi are big assets to their hotel, especially at the Seaside Grill where they work.

"Our food is getting better everyday. Our chefs proved that they have the passion," Daly said.

Saturday's contest was sponsored by the Marianas Visitors Authority, the certified Angus beef brand, Marianas Sweet Shrimp, and Saipan Triple J Five Star Wholesale.

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Jim Bell to explore Aguingan waters on his 71st birthday

BY MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

James H. Bell, who made history by swimming non-stop between the strait of Saipan and Tinian several times in the past, will explore a new adventure next week when he celebrates his 71st birthday.

This time, he will be swimming to the island of Aguingan Island. As an added challenge, he intends to swim around the island, with the bird sanctuary promontory as his final destination for the day.

Bell

Last year, Bell celebrated his birthday by swimming from Tinian to Saipan, taking him less than five hours to reach the shore of the Coral Ocean Point Resort in Koblerville.

Bell is turning 71 on June 9.

He is scheduled to start his swim at 8am by crossing the five-mile distance between Tinian and Aguingan island. Once there, he will swim the 6.6-mile shoreline hugging the island as well as the nearby 1.2 mile bird sanctuary.

As in the past, Bell will have no escort and no advanced knowledge of the tides and surf.

For him, there's no better way to celebrate the occasion than to go back to the waters to explore new things and places.

"I've never been there and I am excited to find out more about it [Aguingan] for the first time," he said.

Nature, he added, always made his crossing a little easier. He said he's always prepared to swim against a strong east-to-west current.

Even jellyfish and the threat of sharks are nothing but a mild annoyance for this man.

It was in July 1981 when Bell marked his retirement from the U.S. Navy by swimming alone from Saipan to Tinian.

He also spent most Saturdays of 1980 swimming around the island of Guam's 120-mile shoreline.

Next week's water adventure will mark Bell's fourth time to swim the Marianas' waters.

On his June 9 adventure, Bell will be equipped with waterproof cellular phone and an emergency position indicating radio beacon, EPIRB, to assure the community of his safety on the waters.

Through EPIRB, he can send a signal to the nearest Coast Guard station to notify them of his whereabouts and his condition.

On Oct. 4, 2008, a Saturday Bell swam from Saipan to Tinian but the five-hour swim turned into a 24-hour ordeal after he was swept out to the ocean. The Department of Public Safety and the U.S. Coast Guard joined forces to look for him and spotted him Sunday still swimming inside of the east Tinian beach line. He refused their offer of assistance and finished the swim.

NMC student president Mereb quits position

BY MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

Just two months before the end of his term, Associated Students of Northern Marianas College president Ivan Mereb Jr. stepped down from his post, following "constitutional" issues raised by NMC president Dr. Carmen Fernandez.

Mereb's resignation took effect on May 23—two days after he was asked to quit the post.

Mereb confirmed his sudden resignation with the *Saipan Tribune*.

"Yes, I am no longer the president of ASNMC effective May 23rd," he said, adding the decision was based on the "request" of the college president.

He declined to further comment on the issue when pressed.

Saipan Tribune learned that the human resource office called for a meeting between Fernandez and Mereb on May 21. Also at the meeting were Student Services dean Janice Tenorio, Leo Pangelinan, and Jack Kiyoshi and Larry Lee—who serve as Mereb's advisers.

Fernandez reportedly asked for Mereb's resignation for violating the ASNMC Constitution when he failed to maintain the required grade point average of 2.9.

The ASNMC president was supposed to end his two-year term in July when the association elects its new officers.

Last April 14, Mereb filed a formal grievance over his forced resignation, arising from an incident on Feb. 7 where he was allegedly harassed by members of the college management, who deliberately entered his office and packed his things. At that time, his failure to maintain his grade point average was the reason cited for his ouster.

In the May 21 meeting, *Saipan Tribune* learned that this same "complaint" was cited by Fernandez in asking him to step down.

In a check with the ASNMC office, it was confirmed that Mereb was no longer with the group.

No one has been named yet to replace Mereb.

Saipan Tribune learned that the group's vice president, Jose Tudela Jr., had also stepped down from the position in April due to personal reasons.

The ASNMC secretary, Lina Wabol, was among the ASNMC officers who were also asked to step down earlier due to failure to maintain the required GPA.

The group's treasurer, Miles Rodriguez, will most likely assume the vacant post. However, Rodriguez on Friday said a meeting has been scheduled to decide on Mereb's replacement.

In previous meetings over the same issue of maintaining GPA, Mereb was able to keep his position after finding out that the ASNMC constitutional provision states that "officer removal was a student initiative; not to played or viewed as the role of the administration [college]."

The former student body president earlier told *Saipan Tribune* that during the two years he served the college he has never been challenged as president during both the ASNMC general elections in fall 2007 and 2008 and no issues were ever brought to him or to the attention of the student election commission handled by the Office of Students Activities and Leadership.

NMC submits final report to WASC

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

The supplemental report of the Northern Marianas College has been transmitted to the Western Association of Schools and Colleges after the approval of the Board of Regents during a special meeting Thursday.

The report, prepared by NMC president Dr. Carmen Fernandez and her management team, contains evidence of the college's compliance with team recommendation 1, which deals with integrating planning, program review, and budgeting, and Team Recommendation 2, institutionalization of the program review process.

Among the highlights of the report is the 2009 update to the key performance indicators, KPI, and benchmarks that were first compiled in 2005.

"The KPI updates that was made a part of the supplemental report is one of the key pieces of evidence that demonstrates the college's use of data collected over a period of years to track and measure our efforts to carry out the college's mission," said Fernandez.

In a statement, the NMC president said the purpose of the KPI report is to give the college a means to measure whether it is meeting its goals and objectives in line with the college's strategic plan.

NMC was placed on continued show-cause status because of two WASC recommendations that were left unaddressed. There were a total of six recommendations

The commission sent a team to visit the NMC campus in April to verify the accuracy of the report that NMC submitted on April 1.

Dr. Sherrill Amador, Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges commissioner / team chair; and Dr. Chris Myers, interim director of Research & Planning, Cerritos College will submit their recommendations on the fate of NMC this month.

Fernandez, in her statement yesterday, stressed that NMC remains accredited by ACCJC/WASC during the show-cause period and all academic credits and degrees from the college are accredited and will be transferable to other accredited institutions.

'Juror-witness relationship issue is contingency plan of defense'

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

The U.S. government believes that the defense teams of former Lt. Gov. Timothy P. Villagomez and co-defendants James A. Santos and Joaquina V. Santos knew of the juror-witness relationships prior to the verdict and decided to use the issue as a contingency plan.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Eric O'Malley said they believe that based on the timing and sequence of events, as well as the inconsistent statements of the defendants' lawyers, the defendants were either aware of the juror-witness relationships before the verdict was rendered or that they had suspicions but delayed further investigation.

The defendants chose instead to preserve the issue as a contingency plan in the event of a guilty verdict, said O'Malley.

"Under either scenario, or if the defendants could have discovered the information earlier through the exercise of reasonable diligence, the defendants will have waived their right to seek a new trial on these grounds," the prosecutor pointed out.

Last April 24, after nearly four weeks of trial and less than a day of deliberation, the federal jury returned a verdict of guilty on all counts against Villagomez and the Santos couple.

Seven days later, the defendants filed several motions, including a motion for a judgment of acquittal or a new trial based on allegations that the defense had learned after the verdict that some witnesses were related to some jurors.

O'Malley then filed a motion to compel the defense lawyers to reveal the name of the person who disclosed the relationships.

O'Malley also questioned why the lawyers of Villagomez and co-defendants waited until the guilty verdict before looking into the alleged relationships.

David J. Lujan, lead counsel for Villagomez, called the motion to compel a strategy of intimidation by the U.S. government.

In the U.S. government's reply filed yesterday, O'Malley said the identity of such persons should be provided to the government in advance of the June 22, 2009 hearing on the motions. He said such persons should be made available for questioning at that hearing.

If the defense fails to provide the information, the defendants should forfeit their right to pursue this line of argument, O'Malley said.

He said the defendants' arguments should survive only by demonstrating to the court the following:

■ No member of the defense team, including the family members who purportedly received and relayed the information after the trial, knew or had reason to know of the relationships prior to the verdict.

■ The relationships could not have been discovered through the exercise of reasonable diligence prior to the verdict.

"These are the defendants' burdens. Failure to satisfy either one warrants a finding of waiver," O'Malley said.

He said someone provided the information to counsel, and counsel is at least aware that a "family member" has firsthand knowledge.

"The court should hear from this person, if only to confirm from a firsthand source that the defense lacked prior knowledge of the relationships," he added.

Mobil hikes prices anew by 15 cents

Just 15 days since its last price increase, Mobil Oil Marianas once again hiked its fuel prices by 15 cents starting at 11am yesterday.

Shell's prices remained the same as of 6pm last night but the two have traditionally reflected each other's price changes.

The last time both oil companies jacked up their prices was on May 16, for 15 cents.

Prior to that, the last time both companies increased their prices was in February.

They have not been issuing advanced public notices of pump price changes.

The price of self-serve regular gasoline at Mobil service stations went up from $3.12 a gallon to $3.27 while the price for super unleaded gasoline increased from $3.42 to $3.57.

Mobil's diesel price also went up from $3.29 to $3.44 per gallon.

AP reports a national average pump price increase of 1.5 cents overnight to $2.44 a gallon.

Reports also showed a steady rise in the price of oil in the world market at $66 a barrel, considered the biggest monthly increase in 10 years. ***(Nazario Rodriguez Jr.)***

Tina Sablan still undecided on re-election bid this Nov.

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Rep. Tina Sablan (Ind-Saipan) yesterday said she's still undecided whether to seek re-election in the November polls.

"I have gone as far as finding out when I should decide, and I have until the first week of August, when all nominating petitions are due. I am hoping that there will be many new, honest, and viable candidates coming forward for this year's election," Sablan, 28, told *Saipan Tribune*.

Sablan, who represents Precinct 1, which covers San Antonio, San Vicente and Koblerville, is one of the youngest lawmakers in CNMI history. She was elected into office at the age of 26 in November 2007.

Sablan, an Independent, is among the most vocal of elected officials and is know for her campaign to boost transparency and accountability in government.

She sued Gov. Benigno R. Fitial and other officials for failing to disclose sources of funding for their federalization lawsuit against the U.S. government.

During House sessions, Sablan always raises her concern if she thinks legislative procedures or protocols are not being followed or laws and regulations are violated.

Her famous Commonwealth manifesto, published in newspapers, earned the respect of many in the community, along with her forums and other open letters to the public.

She has a bachelor's degree in Conservation Science from the College of Santa Fe. She graduated summa cum laude in 2003.

Prior to her election, Sablan was a waste reduction and recycling coordinator with the Division of Environmental Quality, and remains an active public forum coordinator and environmental volunteer and educator.

9 PERCENT

From Page 1

$150,000 investment threshold, among other things.

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial noted a drop in the number of foreign investors during his fourth State of the Commonwealth Address on May 27, but did not cite figures.

Yesterday, Ada provided the numbers, saying they denied some applications for failure to meet the requirements.

He said most of the 477 foreign investors are into general retail, while others are in commercial property and restaurants.

"Majority or roughly 80 percent of the investors are Chinese and Koreans," he added.

These foreign investments support the CNMI's primary industry of tourism.

The governor said the uncertainty caused by federalization has resulted in the decline in the number of investors.

Ada echoed Fitial's statement that foreign investors are concerned that the U.S. Department of Homeland Security has not yet issued regulations governing foreign investors and CNMI-only worker program with only a few months before the start of the transition to federal immigration on Nov. 28.

Fitial said investors are waiting to see the new rules. He said except for IT&E, all call center development plans have been halted because of federalization. Plans for a telemedicine operation have been shelved because of federalization.

FITIAL

From Page 1

will be renewed or not.

On Sunday, Fitial extended anew the declaration of a state of disaster emergency for CUC.

The governor first declared a state of emergency for CUC in August 2008.

CUC pays Aggreko $500,000 a month for the rental of power generators while CUC repairs its engines.

"While CUC's customers would benefit from saving the monthly fee, the decision to terminate the Aggreko contact is far from certain. A shortage of manpower forced by legislation limiting skilled foreign workers, shipping delays for delivery of parts, and ongoing unplanned technical issues will complicate the CUC decision. A premature termination could plunge Saipan into blackouts," Fitial said in Executive Order 2009-5.

Blackouts

Aggreko has commissioned approximately 15 megawatts of temporary, diesel-fired power generators. This generation has meant the difference between rolling blackouts and generally continuous electric service to CUC customers.

Among the new details in the executive order is CUC's continued power operation without the backup 34.5 KV power plant substation for Kiyas 1, 2 and 4. CUC has settled issues with the manufacturer, Waukesha, which has agreed to repair the unit. Its technicians are expected to arrive later this month.

In his latest 13-page order, Fitial said old dilapidated power poles have been causing most outages. However, materials, including insulators, fuse cutouts and fuse holders, have arrived and maintenance schedules are being prepared to deal with the most severe issues first.

Used oil

Over the years, CUC has built up storage of approximately 466,000 gallons of used oil within various facilities. Improper maintenance over the last 15 years of the plant and improper protection of the related pipeline and tank structures have rendered many of the tanks, including Tanks 104, 101, and 102 a threat to the lagoon and shoreline of Saipan, and to the water table.

"CUC must take emergency steps to remove such threats from impacting the water, the community, and, of course, our remaining principal industry, tourism," the governor said.

Since the last executive order, CUC has appointed a manager to address federal Stipulated Order 2 issues and hired expert firms to help it meet tight, complex, federal deadlines. The key objectives are to reduce generation of used oil at the source, the engines and transformers, and replace equipment that contributes to the problems.

The executive order lasts 30 days.

Korean mag looks at NMI English education

A trend-setting Korean magazine targeting housewives with purchasing power visited the Northern Mariana Islands to take a look at the educational opportunities for families wanting their children to learn English.

Housewives' Life magazine editor Kyoo-Yeon Choi and photographer Sung-Un Park arrived on Saipan on May 29 for a three-day familiarization tour, aimed at orienting themselves on Saipan's school curriculum for foreign students and tropical island appeal of the destination.

"*Housewives' Life* is one of the most influential magazines in Korea," said Marianas Visitors Authority managing director Perry Tenorio. "The magazine has the longest history and largest readership among women's magazines in Korea, and MVA is pleased to support their familiarization tour to the Northern Marianas."

Housewives' Life was first published in 1965 and has a monthly circulation of 100,000 copies. The Northern Marianas is expected to receive four pages of coverage at an estimated exposure value of US$8,000.

While on Saipan, the editorial team visited Saipan International School, Eucon International School, Northern Marianas Academy, Ladera International School and Marianas Trekking's Eco-camp. ***(MVA)***

CUC

From Page 1

R. Munson signed the stipulated order that sets requirements and deadlines for CUC to meet.

The order represents the agreement between the CNMI and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency based on the requirements of the Clean Air Act and the Safe Drinking Water Act. The stipulated order also provides a roadmap for providing improved water and sewer services in the CNMI.

Megarr said CUC will need $3.262 million for the first year of complying with the new mandates; it currently lacks $500,000 to meet that total.

In his presentation, Megarr said funds originally dedicated for the Agingan sewage treatment plant, for example, was diverted to power.

He said the current staffing at CUC is less than a year ago.

"The EPA made it abundantly clear that the deadlines will not be extended unless there are extenuating [circumstances]," said Megarr.

CUC executive director Tony Muña, who was also at the PUIC hearing yesterday, said he will be asking for a lifting of the ban on hiring foreign workers for CUC.

"We have a limited labor pool for skilled positions," he told lawmakers. He said of the 25 positions that need to be filled, only two qualified local applicants were hired, and of some 15 foreigners who applied, 12 qualified but not hired yet.

Megarr said lifting the hiring restrictions will address CUC's staffing concerns.

Sablan, in a separate interview, said PUIC expects Muña to soon submit draft legislation for lawmakers' consideration to lift the restrictions on CUC's ability to hire foreign national workers.

"They stressed today, and at the last briefing, that there are individuals who are presently on island who possess the necessary specialized skills and experience to fill some of staffing needs that must be filled for CUC to be able to comply with the stipulated orders," she said.

Sablan said the major challenge at this point is, and always has been, management and funding.

"They have a reorganization plan that has been proposed and submitted but not yet adopted. That should be adopted very soon. The deputy executive director must be filled by June 11. Bruce Megarr is presently deputy director, and can fill that position if he is formally appointed, and Mr. Muna has indicated that he will do so by June 11," said Sablan.

Megarr added that some stipulated order-mandated hires are unfunded, including a water and wastewater operations manager, and a wastewater operations supervisor. He added that some necessary hires are also unfunded, including a maintenance and repair supervisor and electrician.

Other administrative challenges, he said, are the creation of a cost-based procurement scheme modeled after federal acquisition regulations, the adoption of an organizational chart for combined water/wastewater department, and the development of an interim financial plan.

CUC is faced with serious consequences if federal standards are not met, as stipulated in the order, including contempt charges and receivership, fines and penalties.

CUC said in order to comply with all the stipulated orders, there's a need to restructure the current water and wastewater rates to sustain operations. The current wastewater rate was set in 1987 while the water rate was established in 1995. In Fiscal Year 2008, the division's revenue was at $6.3 million compared to expenditures of $9.9 million.

After the PUIC hearing, with Muña, Megarr and other lawmakers still in the Senate chamber, the power went off at 12:25pm.

WATER

From Page 1

Bruce Megarr, CUC deputy director for water and wastewater, yesterday told the Public Utilities and Infrastructure Committee chaired by Rep. Tina Sablan that the lack of rainfall has caused Saipan's water tables to fall to the lowest levels in memory.

During a briefing in the Senate chamber yesterday, Megarr distributed to lawmakers copies of a draft water shortage declaration.

"It's a working document, with no date and signature yet. But what people should understand, especially in the areas most affected, is to conserve water," Megarr told *Saipan Tribune*.

Press secretary Charles P. Reyes Jr. separately said the water shortage was a main topic of discussion during Gov. Benigno R. Fitial's meeting with his Cabinet members yesterday.

Capital Hill hardest hit

Megarr said the hardest hit is Capital Hill, where two of the largest water resources have been all but completely depleted.

Maui Shaft, a 300-ft. deep surface-accessible well, has been reduced to flows of less than 10 gallons per minute. Donnie Springs also has stopped producing water altogether.

"Combined, these two sources represent close to a million gallons of lost water production per day and was 10 percent of total island production," Megarr said in a two-page report.

The Capital Hill area is severely affected as these sources represent over 40 percent of production for these communities.

Other areas of Saipan are experiencing similar if less dramatic effects from these weather conditions, he said. Salinity levels are rising in most coastal area wells, while overall aquifer levels are falling.

"These conditions result in reduced well production, increased wear on equipment and most importantly, a lowering of water quality for our customers," said Megarr.

Fewer water service hours

Megarr said CUC is revising its water service hours to prevent further decline in both the quality and quality of water to customers. ***See graph..***

"We will do all possible to maintain the above levels of service and hope to return many of these communities to 24-hour per day water as soon as practicable. The possibility exists for further service reductions. We will keep you informed," Megarr said.

Conservation needed

Megarr said Saipan residents should also avoid watering of lawns or ornamental plants to save on water.

He said watering of commercially-grown crops and farms should be limited from 8pm to 10pm.

"Failing to adhere to these prohibitions shall result in discontinuation of service," Megarr said.

He also asked CUC customers to reduce the length of showers, fix leaky toilets and faucets, and make sure their storage tanks have float valves to prevent overflow.

"Our goal is to prevent what we hope is a short-term water shortage from developing into an islandwide crisis," Megarr said.

The CUC Water and Wastewater Division is continuing to link water systems throughout Saipan to maximize distribution system flexibility and allowing storage of available water in areas where it is needed most.

"We have over 400 miles of water main and laterals to service. We ask that our customers report all suspected leaks to our control desk at 235-0282," said Megarr.

The public is also asked to report suspected water theft or meter tampering by calling 483-4027.

During his presentation to lawmakers, Megarr said CUC will also install new and replace old water meters.

Rainfall

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's Pacific El Nino-Southern Oscillation reported a lack of extreme rainfall events in Guam and in the CNMI since the latter half of 2006.

In its climate outlook as of the second quarter of 2009, NOAA's Pacific ENSO said rainfall is anticipated to be slightly below normal for Guam and the CNMI for the remainder of the dry season (through June), and continue to be slightly below normal as the rainy season gets underway during July through September.

The 2009 typhoon season of the western North Pacific is already experiencing a delay.

'Irregularities' seen in previous CPA board travels

BY MONETH G. DEPOSA
Moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The ongoing audits by the Office of the Public Auditor on the Commonwealth Ports Authority has partially uncovered some "irregularities" in the previous board's travel expenditures.

OPA audit manager Ross Zapanta confirmed this with the *Saipan Tribune* yesterday, adding that the full audit is expected to be completed by end of the year.

"Based on our initial assessment, we noted some irregularities and weaknesses in the internal control of CPA," Zapanta said, adding that the installation of a new comptroller for the agency is now helping "address" these concerns.

He said they have had some delays in completing their work due to the lack of OPA manpower for fieldwork. Retrieving CPA's old files would aid them in reconciling the records of the agency, he added.

In last week's special meeting, CPA executive director Efrain F. Camacho informed the board that the management is expecting the result of the audit this year.

Camacho disclosed that the ongoing OPA audit covers personnel practices, travel, and board of directors' expenses from fiscal years 2005 to 2008. He said the findings will aid CPA in improving its operations.

Zapanta said the audit request was made by then executive director Clyde Norita, who later stepped down from the post due to differences with former board chair Rex I. Palacios. The board's new chair is Jose Lifoifoi.

Zapanta said the new CPA leadership is now working to rectify the problems OPA had identified.

"The agency is already correcting some of the concerns in internal controls because they have now a comptroller and we have ongoing meetings with the current management of CPA to complete the audit," he said.

Travel records

Saipan Tribune learned that two members of the previous CPA board topped the list in terms of the agency's travel expenses in fiscal years 2007 and 2008.

Reynaldo Cing, representing Tinian, incurred the highest travel expenses in Fiscal Year 2008, while Serafin Dela Cruz, also of Tinian, recorded the largest travel expenses in FY 2007.

Both members are no longer on the board following the expiration of their terms and the termination of the previous board by the Fitial administration when it placed the agency under a state of emergency due to bond indenture concerns.

Cing recorded a total of $6,021 for his 11 travels, majority of which were from Tinian.

Ex-Rota board member Alejo Mendiola was the second biggest travel spender in FY 2008, posting total expenses of $3,897: $2,943 for his per diem and $954 for the airfare of six travels in February to March 2008.

Former board member Connie Igisomar incurred $3,405 for her two trips, including a five-day trip to California in October 2007, during which she received an $857 per diem and incurred airfare expenses totaling $2,267.

Former CPA board chair Rex I. Palacios spent $1,667 for his five trips in FY 2008 before the board was dissolved by the administration.

Melchor Mendiola spent $1,441 for three travels in FY 2008, of which he was paid $964 per diem and $477 for airfare.

Saipan board member Mariana DLG. Tudela spent the smallest travel expenditure, amounting to $322 in FY 2008.

Another man charged in tax refund scheme

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The U.S. government filed yesterday a criminal case against a man who aided and assisted the preparation of a false tax return.

Luciano L. Dereas, also known as Julius Dereas, a Chuukese, is being charged with one count of aiding and assisting the filing of a false tax return.

At yesterday's hearing, Dereas pleaded guilty.

U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Alex R. Munson set the sentencing for Sept. 8, 2009 at 10am.

Munson released the defendant on a $5,000 unsecured bond plus other conditions.

According to the charging information filed by Assistant U.S. Attorney Kirk W. Schuler, Dereas willfully aided and assisted in preparing a person's U.S. individual income tax return form 1040A for submission to the Internal Revenue Service for calendar year 2005.

The income tax return was false and fraudulent in that it represented the filer as having an address in Arkansas and that the filer was entitled to the Earned Income Tax Credit in the total sum of $5,480.

The defendant knew that the filer did not live in Arkansas and would not be able to receive any refund without listing a false address.

According to the plea agreement, Dereas prepared 90 federal tax returns for CNMI residents for the 2004, 2005, and 2006 tax years.

The tax returns stated that the CNMI residents lived in the continental U.S.

The tax returns claimed that the CNMI residents were entitled to refunds—mainly the result of claimed earned income tax credits—of over $200,000 from the IRS.

The return filed by Dereas on Sept. 6, 2006—which forms the basis for one count in the information—asked for a refund of less than $10,000.

In 2007, the U.S. government charged at least four persons who conspired with other persons to defraud the IRS of thousands of dollars in the same tax refund scheme. All four pleaded guilty and were subsequently sentenced to prison.

American Red Cross
Super CPR Saturday
• Date: June 6, 2009 Saturday
• Time: 8:00AM-12:00PM
• Venue: Multipurpose Bldg. in Susupe
• Participants Fee: $5
Regular Price for CPR class is $35
• Student Fee: $2 (valid student ID needed)
Call NMI Chapter at 234-3459 for reservations
Hurry sign up today... space limited to 100 participants
First come first serve basis. Must be present for entire class to receive certification.

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2-hour islandwide power outage due to fallen tree

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
Moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A two-hour islandwide power outage occurred anew yesterday, this time due to a rotten tree that fell on electrical line in San Vicente, causing the automatic shutdown of Commonwealth Utilities Corp. engines.

Power Division acting manager Gary Camacho said the power outage occurred at 12:30pm yesterday when the CUC electrical grid experienced an electrical fault caused by a fallen primary neutral line in Kiya 1.

He said a rotten tree in the San Vicente area fell on a neutral primary line, causing the fault.

"This fault triggered the step-up transformer relays to open the breakers at the Aggreko power plant, which automatically shut down the engines," he said.

The immediate loss of 15 megawatts of power could not be sustained by Power Plant 1, triggering the automatic shutdown of its own engines, resulting in the islandwide outage.

Camacho said both field crews and the power plant staff immediately acted to restore power, with the line crew isolating the problem in the field and the power plant staff synchronizing the two power plants to energize the grid.

The restoration process was completed at 2:30pm.

Camacho apologized to the public for any inconvenience this incident caused the community yesterday.

Over $1K raised in mini ballet concert at Palms

By NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.
n_rodriguez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Glushko's Academy of Performing Arts reported over a thousand dollars in ticket sales during its 2009 Annual Fundraising Mini Concert at the Palms Resort Saipan on Sunday night that featured performances by its 50 students.

The concert showcased academy students performing excerpts of the ballet classics *Swan Lake* and *Sleeping Beauty*.

It was a fundraising event for the academy's main concert in December when professional ballet performers from Russia, Japan and Korea come to Saipan to perform.

Anna Glushko praised the students' amazing show, saying they did a beautiful job.

She performed with the students in the show's finale, called "Pas de Six" from *Sleeping Beauty*.

"Tonight's performance is a warmup as the students prepare to dance with world-class ballet performers in December," Glushko said.

The performances included relevé, grand plié, adagio, skips, polka, balance combination and Grand Pas dé Chat.

The "splits" was performed by Cerinn Hwang, Sakura Imaya, Tiffany Madlambayan, Elisabeth Errett, Lindsey Woosley, Sally Lai, Eun Bi Choi, Shaina Lee and Mayumi Tanaka;

The *Swan Lake* ballet featured a waltz, the Dance of Little Swans (Imaya, Madlambayan, Yu Jin Lee and Hwang), coda and the gallop dance.

Grace Seo, Justina Lee and Olivia Hirsh did the Jewelry excerpt from *Sleeping Beauty*. Other featured classics from *Sleeping Beauty* were the Menuet Dance and Grand Waltz.

Glushko said it was also an opportunity for the students to showcase what they have been learning at the academy.

"I am satisfied. I am very happy and very proud of my students. These are amazing students. It is a unique experience for them," she said.

The academy presented its first ever professional ballet production in 2002 featuring "The Nutcracker" and a "The Concert of Ballet Masters."

Since then, the academy has brought in many of the finest ballerinas from Russia and Korea in December each year.

Fitial tells farmers to keep up with community spirit

By NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.
n_rodriguez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial urged members of the Saipan Sabalu Market Association to keep up with the community spirit, as he signed the proclamation declaring June 1-7 as "Semanan Lancheros" or Farmers' Week last Saturday at the Sabalu Market Multi-Purpose Center.

The governor wants Saipan farmers to follow the example of community spirit on Rota, where he attended the coronation night of the man'amko last Friday night.

"Rota is predominantly agricultural, so all the foods that were served during the night were locally grown," Fitial said.

Fitial stressed the need to enhance the islands' roads as a way to promote the further development of agriculture on Saipan.

Gracing the proclamation signing were Department of Lands and Natural Resources Secretary Ignacio Dela Cruz, Isidoro Cabrera of the Northern Marianas College Cooperative Research Extension and Education Services, and Division of Agriculture director Richard Seman.

Representing the farmers were Manny Borja (vice president) and Asap Ogumoro (secretary), who read the proclamation.

Farming and ranching represent important traditional and cultural practices in the CNMI and, through their hard work, farmers and ranchers provide the needed goods and services to local markets, especially the hotels.

"Our farmers and ranchers have been producing various, vegetables and meat to enrich our daily food intake and affirm our traditional, self-sustaining way of life," the proclamation stated.

It also noted the farmers and ranchers' continued expansion of their knowledge and imparting their traditional values and wisdom to the youth and to the community, as well as their support for the tourism industry and the economy as a whole.

"I invite all CNMI residents to support our local farmers and ranchers by purchasing locally grown produce and livestock," the governor said.

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Beautify CNMI meeting

The public is invited to the monthly Beautify CNMI meeting at the Division of Environmental Quality this Thursday, June 4, 2009, at 3:3pm. Angelo Villagomez will give a three-year review of Beautify CNMI's activities and then the group will identify projects for the new year. ***(PR)***

Chamber of Commerce monthly meeting

The Saipan Chamber of Commerce will be holding its next general membership meeting tomorrow June 3 at the Saipan World Resort's Royal Taga Ballroom. Registration and lunch will begin at 11:30am, and the meeting will begin at noon. The meeting is $15 for members, $20 for guests of members, and $25 for the public. Recipients of the 2009 Educational Scholarship Fund awards will be presented. Chamber president Jim Arenovski will also brief members on his recent trip to Washington, D.C. The group will also hear from the U.S. Census Bureau about the 2007 Economic Census of the CNMI. ***(SCC)***

GTC Elementary festival on Saturday

Gregorio T. Camacho Elementary will be holding its 2nd Annual Cultural and Health Festival on Saturday June 6, 2009, from 9am to 3pm at the GTC School field in San Roque. There will be activities and game booths, a program, information booths, exciting cultural demonstrations and fun entertainment, including the Binadu Idol competition and the Dancing with the Binadu competition. ***(PR)***

DPH employee sues over CHC door accident

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

An employee of the Department of Public Health has sued DPH and the Commonwealth Health Center over the injuries he suffered when a hydraulic door in the hospital hit his mouth.

Albert I. Ichihara sued DPH and CHC for their alleged failure to keep the door in safe condition and failure to obtain Worker's Compensation coverage for his dental treatment.

Ichihara, through lawyer Michael W. Dotts, asked the Superior Court to order the defendants to pay him damages for medical expenses, lost income, pain, suffering, and emotional distress. He also demanded payment for attorney's fees and court costs.

DPH runs CHC, a hospital.

Ichihara, a DPH employee since July 2000, was transferred from the DPH Medical Supply Office to the DPH Maintenance Division sometime in 2003. As a result of the transfer, it is alleged that DPH discontinued Ichihara's coverage under the Workers Compensation Insurance Policy.

According to the complaint, Ichihara and a co-worker were doing maintenance work on the main entrance door of the new CHC building on Nov. 4, 2008, when the hydraulic door suddenly hit Ichihara on the mouth, damaging his lips, teeth and dentures.

The injury was reported to the Workers' Compensation Commission. WCC investigated the claim and requested paperwork from DPH about Ichihara's intra-departmental transfer.

The complaint alleged that DPH failed to find any documentation about Ichihara's transfer within CHC and informed WCC of the absence of paperwork. However, CHC said that plaintiff had been working at CHC since July 3, 2000 and that the verbal intra-departmental transfer occurred about six years ago.

WCC refused to authorize medical treatment benefits for Ichihara because of DPH's failure to provide the requested document.

According to Dotts, the accident caused Ichihara to suffer severe injuries, including, without limitation, pain, lacerations on the lips and a fractured tooth.

Dotts said Ichihara's injuries required dental treatment for several months such as root canal therapy, gum surgery, bone graft to rebuild upper ridge, and fabrication of bridge and dentures.

The lawyer said DPH and CHC are liable to Ichihara because he worked for the defendants and the two failed to provide him with Worker's Compensation Insurance coverage.

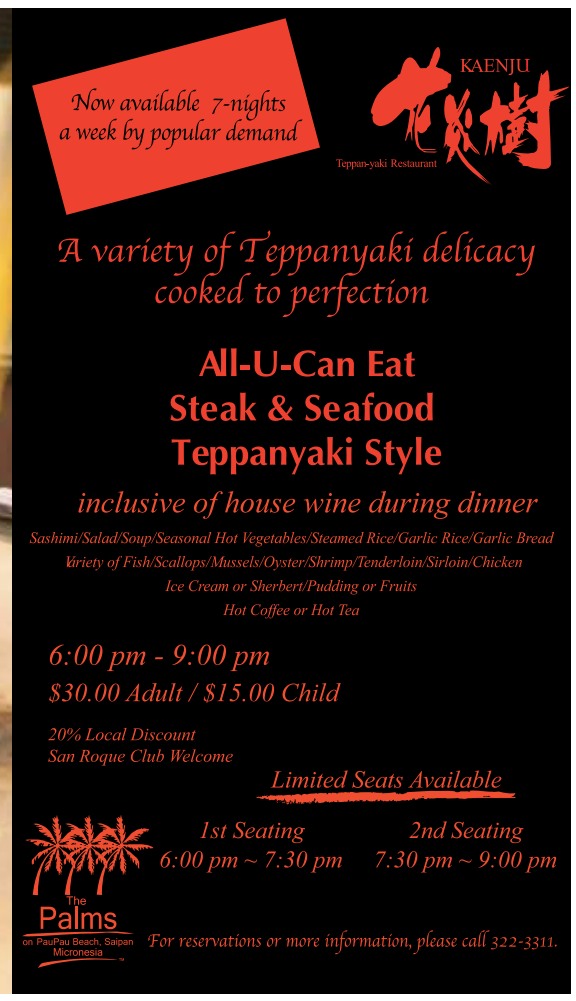
"DPH and CHC owed a duty to its employees, including plaintiff, to maintain its premises, including its doors, in a reasonably safe condition that would make its employees work safely in the premises of the hospital," Dotts said.

As a result of DPH and CHC's alleged failure to obtain Workman's Compensation coverage and complete the required documentation, Ichihara's injury was not covered by WCC.

BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUT

Happy 60th birthday to our grandpa, Julian Q. Reyes, who is celebrating his birthday today. "Wishing you a wonderful day and many more birthdays to come!" With love from your grandchildren, children and Elen.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



AFTER 64 YEARS

Body of pilot killed on Saipan finally found

By DAVID FERRARA
PRESS-REGISTER VIA THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Editor's Note: This story was originally published on June 20, 2008. The paragraph in bold font is the latest update on the story as submitted by Bruce M. Petty.

MOBILE, Ala.—A modest slate of granite no more than 3 feet wide and 2 feet long rests a few steps from a live oak tree at Pine Crest Cemetery. It is 9,000 miles from the body that belongs beneath it.

The marker reads: "Lt. W.L. McVay, Jr. USNR/Dec. 16, 1917/Feb. 22, 1944/Killed in action in Saipan." Next to it is a pair of headstones for his mother and father.

Until recently, no one had a clue where McVay's body lay. After the Navy squadron leader's F6F Hellcat was shot down over the Pacific, the military categorized McVay as missing in action and dead.

Woodie Lackland McVay left behind a wife and a daughter, along with his grieving parents.

For decades, his family wondered.

On the other side of the world, there is a white stone cross that looks like all the others.

It stands as grave two, row 12, plot F at the Manila American Cemetery and Memorial in the Philippines. The inscription reads: "Here rest in honored glory/a comrade in arms/known but to God."

The only name associated with the serviceman there was "X-35."

Then, this month, that all began to change, when World War II researcher Ted Darcy received a report on the body in the Manila grave.

■■■

The Central Identification Lab in Hawaii has notified the Navy Casualty Branch that Unknown X-35 from Saipan has been identified as Navy Lt. Woodie Lackland McVay. Lt McVay was lost during a fighter sweep of the island in February 1944 while serving with Fighting Squadron Five (VF-5) from the USS Yorktown.

Official notification to the next of kin, his granddaughter, Elizabeth Huff of Birmingham, AL, will take place in the coming weeks. Final arrangements are still in the planning stages. This brings to a close the three-year project to get him identified.

■■■

Darcy had been trying to track down McVay's remains for more than three years, poring over dozens of files. He found him when he received a report from the U.S. Army Human Resources Command in Alexandria, Va.

The burial records matched. The height was barely a half-inch off McVay's frame. The dental records were almost identical to those in McVay's military file.

Darcy was able to match 12 fillings and extractions in McVay's mouth. "That's rare," he said.

Last week, the report that connected McVay to the spot in Manila was sent to the Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command at Hickam Air Force Base, Hawaii.

JPAC is in the process of verifying that X-35 is indeed McVay, but Rob Richeson, a JPAC official, said he and others are "pretty positive" that it is.

The exhumation process, he added, "should move reasonably quickly." In government-speak, that's several months, but for McVay's family, they're closer than they've ever been to bringing him home.

McVay's sister died in January. But in an interview with the Press-Register weeks before she passed away, Dorothy Carstens said she wanted her brother buried at Pine Crest, next to their parents.

His widow, the former Annie Ruth Heidelburg, now Annie Ruth Owen of Bay Minette, remembers their short, but happy marriage, and the day she gave birth to their only child, Diane.

Diane died in 1995, having never known her father.

As hopes of identifying McVay have risen, Owen has found herself reflecting on their brief marriage, and the day he left for war, a day after their daughter was born. "I keep thinking about all that," she said.

McVay's body was buried and dug up four times after his plane was shot down, according to Darcy.

The Army first exhumed him from a makeshift Saipan grave on July 17, 1944. An autopsy was performed, and he was identified by the name stitched in his underwear.

But in the rush of war, the autopsy report and the location of McVay's body were lost, Darcy said. His body was interred at a military cemetery on Saipan in October of that year as an unknown.

In March 1948, the body was taken to a mausoleum on Saipan, where the military kept other unidentified war dead. In October that year, the body was placed on a ship to the Philippines, where X-35 was buried on March 30, 1950.

McVay, meanwhile, had been declared dead in January 1946.

McVay's granddaughter, Elizabeth Huff of Birmingham, has spent the last three years learning about him. She spoke with family members and McVay's friends, and read letters from fellow veterans. She said she believes he deserved a funeral with full military honors, a chance for the family to say goodbye and cry.

She wants "an ending to the grief," she said. "There's got to be a beginning, and there's got to be an ending. When you don't have closure, you might cry, but there's not an end to the crying."

Northern Mariana Islands
RETIREMENT FUND
1980 "Investing For The Future Financial Security of our Members"

ADMINISTRATIVE HEARING OFFICER
REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL NO. RF09-060

OPENING DATE: **JUNE 2, 2009** CLOSING DATE: **JULY 2, 2009**

INTERESTED PARTIES MAY REQUEST THE RFP PACKET BY E-MAIL, FACSIMILE, OR POSTAL MAIL FROM:

ADMINISTRATOR
NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS RETIREMENT FUND
PO BOX 501247, SAIPAN, MP 96950 • FAX: 670/664-8080
E-MAIL: administrator01@nmiretirement.com

Preference is available to U.S. citizens or permanent residents as per Public Law 15-95 and as further amended by Public Law 15-118 and must be submitted with the proposal if preference is claimed.

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY
Main Office: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
P.O. BOX 501055 • SAIPAN • MP 96950
Phone: (670) 237-6500 • Fax: (670) 234-5962
E-mail Address: cpa.admin@pticom.com • Website: www.cpa.gov.mp

Request For Proposals
Project No. CPA-RFP-001-09

The Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) is requesting for proposals for fuel supply (Diesel) to its airport and seaport on the island of Saipan. The contract term will be for one (1) year. Detailed scope of work will be available on May 27, 2009 at the Commonwealth Ports Authority Administration Office (2nd Floor of the Arrival Terminal) at the Saipan International Airport.

Sealed proposals are to be submitted by 4:30 p.m. on or before June 15, 2009 at the Executive Director's/Administration office (2nd Floor of the Arrival Terminal) at the Saipan International Airport.

Questions can be submitted in writing by email or letter to the Executive Director before June 5, 2009.

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

THE FINANCIAL & INSURANCE SERVICES GROUP, INC., : CIVIL ACTION NO. 09-0142

Plaintiff,

-v-

RAMON T. METTAO and SURINE N. METTAO

Defendants.

SUMMONS FOR PUBLICATION

TO: THE ABOVE-NAMED DEFENDANTS:

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and notified to file any answer you wish to make to the Complaint, a copy of which is served upon you hereby, within twenty-one (21) days after the fourth publication of this summons, and to deliver or mail a copy of your answer to The Law Offices of Michael A. White, LLC, the Plaintiff's Attorneys, whose address is P.O. Box 5222, Saipan, MP 96950, as soon as practicable after filling your answer or sending it to the Clerk of Courts for filing.

Your answer should be in writing and filed with the Clerk of this Court at Susupe, Saipan. It may be prepared and signed for you by your counsel and sent to the Clerk of this Court by messenger or mail. It is not necessary for you to appear personally until further notice. If you fail to answer in accordance with this Summons, judgment by default may be taken against you for the relief demanded in the Complaint.

By order of the above court:

/s/ Deputy Clerk of Court

DATED, this 9th day of May, 2009:

KUDOS

Congratulations Kimo Klye on your graduation today! We love you! Greetings come from Mommy, Uncle Pong, Jun, and Celina Joe.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

June 2, 1999

Food stamp grantees increase 18 percent

As the island's economy continues to reel from the effects of the Asian-wide financial crisis, the number of food stamp recipients jumped 18 percent from October to April 1999 compared to the same period in the previous fiscal year. With this increase, the Nutritional Assistance Program now incurs close to $350,000 in monthly expenses for a total of 4,501 recipients. "If we continue to see an increase in the number of program participants and exceed from the budget given to us, we would have to negotiate for an additional fund with the federal government next year," said James Kintol, NAP director.

Teno gets high marks from legislators

Legislators believe Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio is doing well in his job so far, but the biggest challenge against his leadership still lies ahead as the Northern Marianas continues to face twin assaults from the U.S. and the Asian region. On the eve of the annual State of the Commonwealth address, most members of the Legislature give a high rating to Tenorio's handling of the economic and financial crisis that have dogged the island since his political comeback in January 1998. The governor, however, needs to brush up his skills in dealing with long-standing problems between the CNMI and Washington, whose bilateral ties have soured in recent months due to differences over local administration of labor and immigration.

June 2, 2000

Democrats, Reform may form coalition

The Democrats and the Reform Party must join forces if they want to ensure their victory over the Republicans in next year's general elections, according to Sen. Ramon S. Guerrero. He said, however, there has yet a formal move to form a coalition between the two parties, although he has broached the idea to Reform Party leaders and even to former Lt. Gov. Jesus C. Borja who is seeking the nomination by the Democrats for the November 2001 gubernatorial race. "In order for me to see a good 2001 election, I would like to see the Reform and the Democrats to come together as one," Mr. Guerrero told reporters yesterday in an interview.

CDA hopes to secure fresh SBA funds

The Commonwealth Development Authority is confident the United States Small Business Administration will approve its request for fresh funds that will replenish its depleting portfolio for small-scale investors in the Northern Marianas. Executive Director Marylou S. Ada disclosed CDA is approaching near to the sealing of another agreement with the Guam-based SBA for at least $700,000 in additional funds that will be earmarked for local applicants wishing to put up or expand small-scale investments. Ms. Ada added the government's premier lending agency is likely to upgrade the maximum amount of money that can be lent out under the Microloan Program from $25,000 to $75,000 if SBA would release the requested additional funding.

June 2, 2004

CUC begins power shedding

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. has asked all garment and hotel businesses to run their own generators daily to avert overloading the power plants on Saipan. This comes soon after CUC began load-shedding Monday, resulting in island-wide power outages that affected schools, traffic lights, and businesses. Yesterday, Mount Carmel School let out its students ahead of schedule because of the outages, while traffic lights from Susupe all the way to Middle Road and Beach Road stopped operations. According to a CUC official, the utility company has to turn off power supplies at certain areas for a period of time to prevent the tripping off of operating power plants and before the generators reach full capacity.

CUC total assets down in 2004

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp.' total assets declined by about $5 million this year compared to last year. From a total of $166 million total assets in March 2003, the figure went down to $161 million during the same period this year. This was due mainly to the accumulated depreciation of CUC's plants-electric, water, and sewer-which were valued at $108.5 million in 2003. This year, they were valued at $104.3 million.

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Office of the Secretary of Public Works
2nd Floor Joeten Commercial Building, Gualo Rai
Saipan, MP 96950

ADDENDUM NO.2
June 1, 2009

DPW09-IFB-011
CONSTRUCTION OF ROUTE 31 CROSS ISLAND ROAD IMPROVEMENTS, PHASE 1, SAIPAN
FEDERAL AID PROJECT NO. CM-NH-0031(013)

1. **General:** The following revisions, additions, corrections, and/or clarifications to the specifications and drawings shall apply to the work affected thereby. Careful note of this Addendum shall be taken by the bidder/contractor, and all trades affected shall be fully advised of the information contained herein. In the event of a conflict between drawings, specifications and this Addendum, the contents of this Addendum shall govern. All further conflicts in the work resulting from, or caused by, the contents of this Addendum must be brought to the attention of the Contracting Officer for resolution. **Failure to acknowledge this bid Addendum in accordance with instructions may subject your bid to rejection on the affected item(s)/service(s).**

2. **Pre-Bid Conference:** Will be held on June 5, 2009, 9:00 a.m. local time at the Department of Public Works Conference Room, Gualo Office.

3. **All questions:** All questions regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than 4:30 p.m. local time on June 12, 2009 to Mr. Joseph M. Inos, Jr., Director of Technical Services Division, DPW 2nd Floor Joeten Commercial Building, Oleai Center, Saipan or fax to (670) 234-3547.

4. **Sealed bids:** must be marked **"DPW09-IFB-011"**. For bidders within the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be submitted to the Director of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, no later than 10:00 a.m. June 26, 2009. Bidders located outside of the CNMI may obtain an additional Seven (7) working days for receipt of their bids by submitting a Notice of Intent to bid. Notice of Intent to bid must be received by the Director of Procurement and Supply no later than 10:00 a.m. local time June 26, 2009, and must be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515, or via e-Mail to procurement@pticom.com. For bidders located outside the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than June 26, 2009, and must be received no later than July 7, 2009. Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a bid.

5. **Bid Opening:** Bids will be publicly opened and read at the Division of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, at 10:00 a.m. local time, July 10, 2009, However, if no notices of intent to bid were received from bidders outside the CNMI, bids will be opened at 10:00 a.m. local time, on July 1, 2009

All other requirements of the Invitation for Bids of the project package shall remain as stated.

/s/ DIEGO B. SONGSONG
Secretary of Public Works

SAIPAN COMMUTER TERMINAL PUBLIC ADDRESS SYSTEM INSTALLATION
PROJECT NO. CPA-SA-009-09
DESIGN-BUILD SERVICES

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

The Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) is soliciting sealed proposals for the Design and Installation of a Public Address System at the Saipan Commuter Terminal at the airport on the Island of Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The proposals shall include the following:

- Letter of Interest;
- Design and installation timeframe;
- Project Approach;
- Design-Build Construction Team;
- Available resources to accomplish project;
- Cost Proposal (in itemized scope of work format);
- Valid CNMI Business License;
- Related past project performance;
- List of completed similar projects;
- List of experienced personnel and résumé's; and
- Proof of insurance requirements as provided in Proposal Package.

All proposals shall be sealed and marked on the cover package outside as follows: "Proposal for the Saipan Commuter Terminal Public Address System Installation– Design/Build Services". The proposal must be submitted no later than **4:30 P.M. LOCAL TIME, WEDNESDAY, JUNE 30, 2009**, to the Office of the Executive Director at the Saipan International Airport.

An on-site pre-proposal meeting will be conducted and interested proposers are required to attend. No proposals from non-attendees will be accepted. The on-site pre-proposal meeting will be held on June 9, 2009 at 10:00 am at the Saipan Commuter Terminal Building, Saipan Airport.

Each proposal shall be accompanied by a proposal bond issued by a CPA approved surety company, a certified check, or a cashier's check in the amount not less than ten percent (10%) of the total proposal amount. Checks shall be made payable to the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

Proposers shall also submit a statement of qualifications which should include résumés and experience of personnel that will be directly in charge of the project. Note that either party of the design consultant/contractor team that submits a proposal cannot submit as a subcontractor on another proposal. However, only subcontractors may be included in multiple proposals by different design/build teams.

All responses to this RFP shall take into account any and all taxes that will be charged to the proposer awarded the contract for the project, including excise tax as well as associated costs for airport security badges.

The Project is being financed by the Commonwealth Ports Authority. The contract award, if it is to be made, will be made within sixty (60) calendar days from the receipt of proposals. CPA reserves the right to hold the contract award for ninety (90) calendar days from the date of receipt of proposals.

The contract period for design and replacement will be based on the contractor's proposal. However, liquidated damages of $500.00 shall be assessed the contractor for each calendar day the completion of the project is delayed beyond the contract completion date without excuse.

This procurement is made in accordance with the CPA Procurement Rules and Regulations Section 3.6. CPA reserves the right to reject any or all proposals submitted for: (a) any of the reasons set forth in this Request for Proposals; or (b) any of the reasons set forth in the CPA Procurement Rules and Regulations regarding bid rejection or cancellation; or (c) sufficient justification exists that awarding the project contract would not be in the best interest of CPA. CPA further reserves the right to waive any defects in said proposals if in its sole opinion to do so would be in CPA's best interest.

All proposals shall become property of the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

FOR THE COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

/s/ MR. EFRAIN F. CAMACHO, P.E.
Executive Director/Contracting Officer Date: May 29, 2009

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Department of Public Health
Division of Public Health
Caller Box 10007 Saipan, MP 96950
Telephone: 670.664.4067 FAX: 670.664.4069

POSTED FOR PUBLIC REVIEW

The CNMI Department of Public Health is presenting for public review and comments the 2009 State Plan for the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children (WIC). Comments submitted will be reviewed for possible inclusion into the plan for FY2009.

WIC is a 100% federally funded nutrition education and supplemental food program for low income pregnant, breastfeeding and postpartum women, infants, and children up to 5 years of age. Eligibility is determined by nutritional risk and incomes that fall below 185 percent of the poverty level. CNMI WIC has approximately 4,700 participants currently enrolled.

A priority for the program is to make sure pregnant women understand the importance of adequate nutrition throughout their pregnancy, and that mothers with young children have the basic nutritional knowledge necessary to assure their children's proper nutrition intake.

The State Plan can be viewed on-line at cnmiwic.org website or by visiting the WIC Administration Office, Upper Navy Hill, Bldg. N-25.

Comments must be received in writing no later than 4:30 pm, June 15, 2009.

Send your comments in writing to the:
CNMI WIC Program
P.O. Box 500409
Saipan, MP 96950

or at the:

CNMI WIC Program Administrative Office
Upper Navy Hill
Bldg. N 25

USDA is an Equal Opportunity Provider and Employer.

Joseph Kevin P. Villagomez
Secretary of the
Department of Public Health

Josephine K. Tudela
Director, CNMI WIC Program

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Department of Public Health
Division of Public Health
Caller Box 10007 Saipan, MP 96950
Telephone: 670.664.4067 FAX: 670.664.4069

ANNOUNCEMENT
WIC Income Eligibility Guidelines 2009-2010

On March 6, 2009, a Notice announcing the revised WIC Income Eligibility Guidelines was published in the Federal Register. The adjusted income eligibility guidelines are used by State agencies in determining the income eligibility of persons applying to participate in the WIC Program. WIC State agencies must implement the new guidelines effective July 1,2009.

To be eligible on the basis of income, applicants' gross income (i.e. before taxes are withheld) must fall at or below 185 percent of the U.S. Poverty Income Guidelines. The guidelines for WIC are shown below.

WIC Income Eligibility Guidelines
(Effective from July 1, 2009 to June 30, 2010)

48 Contiguous States, D.C. Guam and Territories					
	Annual	Monthly	Twice-Monthly	Bi-Weekly	Weekly
1	20,036	1,670	835	771	386
2	26,955	2,247	1,124	1,037	519
3	33,874	2,823	1,412	1,303	652
4	40,793	3,400	1,700	1,569	785
5	47,712	3,976	1,988	1,836	918
6	54,631	4,553	2,277	2,102	1,051
7	61,550	5,130	2,565	2,368	1,184
8	68,469	5,706	2,853	2,634	1,317
Each Add'l. Member add	+6,919	+577	+289	+267	+134

A person or certain family members who participate in other benefits programs, such as the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) (formerly the Food Stamp Program) or Medicaid automatically meet the income eligibility requirement. USDA is an Equal Opportunity Provider and Employer.

USDA is an Equal Opportunity Provider and Employer.

Joseph Kevin P. Villagomez
Secretary of the Department of Public Health

Josephine K. Tudela
Director, CNMI WIC Program

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
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EDITORIAL

Where is Congress on GM bailout?

In March, we cheered President Obama when he extended a federal lifeline to General Motors and Chrysler. He was risking a fair bit of tax dollars—$6 billion, on top of $17.5 billion in emergency loans tendered since December—but he said he was setting tough conditions for anything beyond that. "We cannot make the survival of our auto industry dependent on an unending flow of taxpayer dollars," he said. "These companies—and this industry—must ultimately stand on their own, not as wards of the state."

So how did we get from there to here? Here, according to media accounts this week, is an imminent transformation of General Motors into a government-owned company, infused with upward of $50 billion in federal money. The United States will accept stock in lieu of the cash the company owes, and Washington—that is, you, the taxpayer—will become the owner of 70 percent of the new GM. When might the company stand on its own, to paraphrase Obama? When would the government exit the stage? The Post reports that administration officials hope to depart within five years, but the truth is that nobody knows when or whether taxpayers would recover their investment. If you think the federal government is well equipped to manage a failing automobile manufacturer into profitability, you should jump at this deal.

The bailouts were distasteful from the beginning, in December, but with the economy so fragile, a GM implosion might have been calamitous. Dealerships and auto-parts suppliers would have followed the once-mighty manufacturer into bankruptcy, taking a huge toll on employment. Even today, with the economy looking less shaky, that logic may still hold. Economists have warned against assuming too soon that the recession is waning. It could be too dangerous even now to leave GM to its own devices.

But is a massive, unbounded federal commitment to a company that evidently still can attract no private capital really the only option? It doesn't take much imagination to forecast the political pressures that will buffet the government-as-auto-executive. We've seen one effect already in the preferential treatment of the autoworkers' union at the expense of private creditors. The government sweetened its offer to creditors in the past couple of days, but they're still getting less return on their debt than the union is. Meanwhile, the union can boast that it has been promised no loss in "base hourly pay, no reduction in ... health care, and no reduction in pensions." Influential members of Congress will insist on jobs in their districts; environmentalists will want electric cars; overseas sourcing will be frowned upon. How such decisions affect profits could become secondary.

In an essay this week on theatlantic.com, federal Judge Richard A. Posner argued that a further bailout may be justified—if GM's failure to attract private investment stems from continuing problems in the overall credit market and not its own inefficiencies. If so, he wrote, the aid should take the form of additional loans, not ownership. "We should be concerned lest GM become a kind of economic Vietnam, where the federal government throws good money after bad, year after year, in a vain quest for victory."

When the Bush administration first assessed its unpalatable options, Congress played an active and constructive role. Where are the legislators now? They should at least be pressing the administration to explain why nationalization is the best option.

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Manchukuo

By JAIME VERGARA
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Vergara is a regular contributor to the Saipan Tribune's Opinion Section.

John Lone's performance as the last Manchu Emperor Pu Yi in the Academy award winning movie, *The Last Emperor,* may have fudged a few details on historical data, but not by much. It showed the decline of the longest ruling dynasty in China, the Qings, who deposed the Mings in the 1600s, and set China's boundaries that demarcate it today from the rest of its neighbors.

Manchukuo, the State of Manchu, was Japan's name of its attempt to legitimize its occupation of Manchuria in 1930, historically the stomping ground of Mongols, Hans, Koreans, Russians, and Rippon, the Levant of the Far East.

We are most familiar with the image of the Empress Dowager in the waning days of the Qing dynasty, the widespread practice of binding women's feet, treating women as objects of art to be kept for display like porcelain dolls, and men wearing a hair queue, a symbol of subservience and loyalty.

We are also acquainted with the West's imperial designs that led to the Opium War with England in the mid-1800s, weakening and humiliating China, and resulting in the carving up of the coastal regions as other colonial powers like France, Spain, Portugal, Germany, Russia, the United States and Japan vied for positions of commerce and trade.

Internally, the Manchus nursed their own contradictions. Obsessed with stability and comfort, resistant to change and self-denying of what was disconcerting, it ignored the plight of the masses who suffered the effects of European diseases, nature's droughts and famines, and the inhospitable typhoons and quakes. The popular Taiping rebellion birthed a nationalism that ushered Sun Yatsen's movement, and the abdication of the imperial throne.

Also, the minority Manchus held most of the important government position, by virtue of ethnicity rather than merit or qualification, creating complacency among the elite since a secured niche in government came with the family name. This prevailed against the vitality and resentment of the majority Hans (a lesson lost to ethnic cleansers, insecure proponents of racial affirmative action and clannish ethnic preferential politics still operative in some places in our time!).

Coming to China short of a year after the August Beijing 2008 Olympics meant that the spruced-up spruce-and-pine lining many paths and roadways, farm windbreakers, and strategic locations along railways and canals, compliments of the rapid greening of the self-conscious pre-Olympics Sino face, is very evident in the carbon-saturated air of the countryside and the city in the industrialized Northeast. This is particularly true of cities like Shenyang, one of the official football (soccer) sites. Landscaping was evidently done in all public parks and housing settlements, though evidence of cosmetic quality and signs of upkeep neglect are clear. The impact of wear-and-tear shows.

Happily, the use of flowering potted plants is widespread so that visits to the Beiling Shaolin Park and the Qing Imperial Palace (a mini version of the one in Beijing), make sites resplendent with flowers and greens. In the same fashion, though a bit unnerving, is an early morning visit to the Stalin Park in Harbin, the Moscow of the East. Maybe, Spring in mid-May was not warm enough for flowers, but the potted plants in the park were deceptively of plastic and coated paper. This rather contemporary practice of substituting nature with their factory-made lookalikes, along with memories of the city's waterfront by the Songhao River making headlines in 2005 with a disastrous toxic chemical spill that rendered its fresh water and fish inconsumable, it was clear that we all live downstream and suffer the consequences of the poisoning of our waters.

We also all live downwind. Ben Xi is a city outside Shenyang that makes West Virginia and Ohio's coal consumption look like backyard barbecues. They forge iron and steel products, from street manhole covers to military trucks and tanks, and all metal works in between. Nestled between high mountain ranges, what would otherwise look like picturesque sceneries in Shaolin paintings, the place is heavily laden with soot and the numerous tunnels that serve its highways and rails might look Evian in the winter save the unmistakable scent of its polluted air. I counted three smokestacks per city square blocks from the train!

It was by the Yalu River that a tour guide boasted to her captive wards that the river's water 20 miles inland out of Dandong was potable. "Not on my hepatitis shot, t'aint!" I quietly said under my breath as I watch South Korean visitors (we were just a stone's throw away from North Korea) longingly scoop the water off the river like Christian pilgrims slurping the water off the river Jordan, oblivious of the visible dredge sitting on the bottom of the river.

Given its predominantly *Han Guo* population, it is no surprise that China's peach orchards along the Yalu mirror farms those around Suwon south of Seoul in the early '70s. If there is anything enviable about China's daily street markets, it is the superabundance of fruits and vegetables. China, of course, is food, and one of the early goals of Mao's *Gong Chan Dang* is self-sufficiency in food production.

The fruit offerings are astoundingly fresh, considering that some of them obviously come from China's equatorial terrain. Fresh durian costs a third of what I pay for at Joeten, a frozen item that comes from Southeast Asia via California. The mangoes, mangosteen, lychees, strawberries, cherries, melons, apricots, peaches, pears, bananas, blackberries, etc. must be lorried or railed from the port of Dalian (previously Port Arthur to old old-timers!). The Chinese are very partial about their food intake, and the abundance of fruits and vegetables speaks of healthy eating habits, and

See MANCHUKUO on Next Page

EDITORIAL POLICY The *Saipan Tribune* welcomes comments on any article, column, editorial, or topic that may be of interest to the public. Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

State of the Commonwealth Address

Editor's Note: The following is the text of Gov. Benigno R. Fitial's State of the Commonwealth Address, which he delivered on May 27, 2009, at the House of Representatives' chamber on Capital Hill.

First of a five-part series

By BENIGNO R. FITIAL

Benigno R. Fitial is the governor of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

When I became Governor in January of 2006, I came into this office with some high expectations. I came in with one mission in mind: to improve our economy for the benefit of the people of the CNMI. The goal was to produce a better economy and improve our standard of living. We started with a great deal of promise, meeting many investors and exploring new industries and new business opportunities for the Commonwealth.

Our goal of economic recovery, however, was compromised by a few crucial challenges: a budget crisis, a CUC crisis, federalization, and a global economic downturn. Over the past three years, the Commonwealth essentially faced the perfect financial storm.

A budget crisis

Let me first begin by discussing our government's financial challenges. Before we could go on an economic offensive to spur investment and grow our economy, we first had to play financial defense with our government's finances.

I came into office after two major developments in 2005: the new WTO rules that took effect in January of 2005 and the pull-out of Japan Airlines in October of 2005. Both of these events gravely affected our two largest industries, garment manufacturing and tourism, and resulted in substantial revenue losses for our government, which was a bloated, deficit-ridden government we inherited in 2006.

Aggressive cost cutting

But we took action. We dramatically reduced costs. We revised our budget in the middle of the fiscal year. When we came into office, our government was operating under a continuing resolution of some $213 million, but our government was actually exceeding this budget authority and spending as much as $250 million per year. We initially reduced expenditures to $198 million. We sold cars, cut fleet cards, and cut automobile costs. We eliminated government cell phones and reduced government travel costs. We reduced compensation for consultants and we reduced the number of consultants from the previous administration. And we imposed austerity holidays for one fiscal year with legislative support—something that had never been done before.

Spendthrift MPLA abolished, DPL saves funds

As one of my first official acts as Governor, I was proud to abolish the Marianas Public Lands Authority and replace it with a much more accountable and constitutionally consistent Department of Public Lands under the Executive Branch. By doing this with strong legislative support, we finally ended a long nightmare of public abuses and dramatically curtailed government spending on exorbitant consultants, legal fees, and travel expenses, as documented by the Office of the Public Auditor. Although I would have liked to have seen successful MPLA prosecutions, I have to defer to the judgment of our prosecuting attorneys in such criminal cases.

Essential public services protected

Over the past three and a half years, we have cut nearly $100 million from our operating budget. But we have done so while still protecting essential public services, such as public health, public safety, and public education. While we have reduced our operating budget by more than 30 percent over the past three years, our budget for the Public School System has barely been reduced by comparison. Nevertheless, we have had to make some serious sacrifices to live within our means and deal with contracting revenues. And affording and keeping qualified medical professionals will continue to be a challenge as our resources further diminish.

As part of our efforts to improve the quality and delivery of health care, I have directed the Acting Secretary of Public Health to invite private clinics into our new hospital facility. This will raise revenues for DPH, reduce wait time and alleviate patient overflow and provide patients with greater convenience and access to health care.

To be continued.

'Glass ceiling' could be a math problem

By CARLOS LOZADA
(C) 2009, THE WASHINGTON POST

WASHINGTON—The glass ceiling isn't just a social problem.

Turns out it's a math problem, too.

It's not unusual to see women in powerful jobs: Three of the last four secretaries of state have been women, and Supreme Court nominee Sonia Sotomayor is getting more media attention for her ethnicity than for her gender. Yet in the science, technology, engineering and math labor force, XX still trails XY. Why?

Women are 37 percent less likely than men to earn science-related bachelor's degrees, and they hold only a quarter of the jobs in the field. In a new paper titled "Sex and Science," economists Scott Carrell, Marianne Page and James West offer one non-Larry Summersesque explanation: Some women lag in science not because they're women—but because their professors aren't.

In their study, published by the National Bureau of Economic Research, the authors examine the performance of nearly 9,500 Air Force Academy students who were randomly assigned to their professors between 2000 and 2008. They found that women tend to receive lower grades than similarly skilled men in their introductory math and science classes, but that this gap diminishes by two-thirds when female students are taught by female professors. The change is more dramatic for women who arrived at the Air Force Academy with high aptitude in math; when their professors are women, the gap in their performance disappears altogether. Such women are also 26 percent more likely to go on to major in science-related fields if all their initial math and science professors, as opposed to none, are women.

This is not a case of female professors with a soft spot for female students. Science and math grades are determined by standardized tests, and the impact of the teacher's gender disappears in English and history courses. Also, many female students excel with male science teachers. But overall, there is something special about women and teaching in science—something the researchers can't fully explain.

"Do female professors serve as role models?" they ask. "Do they teach in ways that female students find more accessible?" Carrell, Page and West say they need more data to find answers. Let's get a female number-cruncher—with a female instructor in her past—on the case.

Letters to the Editor

Not one for the books

With all due respect, Sen. Pete Reyes' assertion that "the criminal conviction of former Lt. Gov. Timothy P. Villagomez has further tainted the CNMI's reputation in Washington, D.C. and the rest of the world" couldn't be further from the truth. The reputation of residents here was not harmed by convicting him. If anything, it improved our international standing as a land of justice for all, one that could improve tourism and investor confidence for years to come. Our worldwide reputation was stained with human exploitation by the status quo economic model of servitude advanced here which has harmed local kids for the last generation.

Your claim that the conviction "is one of the worst chapters in the CNMI's history" is not true at all. Petty criminals are never recorded in history books, they are just forgotten. U.S. history text briefly mentions one presidential assassin and only mentions gangster Al Capone to highlight the growth of organized crime that blossomed in urban areas after prohibition. Convicted Vice President Agnew is briefly mentioned in some U.S. history books and dismissed in others. Prosecuting violent criminals like Manson and Bundy didn't defame Florida or California and have no historical value. The NMI history book may note that crooks in our Legislature kept paying him with our dwindling resources.

We have had numerous recent entries to CNMI history though. The Marianas Trench Marine Monument is among the wonders of the natural world even if our Senate didn't support it. Federalization of our labor and immigration makes the NMI history book as does the CNMI Legislature's opposition. Jack Abramoff's bribery of the U.S. Congress ranks in U.S. and NMI history along with our Legislature's involvement in that criminal affair. A new member to the U.S. Congress that PL 110-229 guaranteed will make the CNMI history book as well as our politicians' opposition to that law. Tina Sablan's election with a political platform instead of road placards would make my version of the textbook. The historical impact of the minimum wage increase should not be overlooked to provide positive change for indigenous kids in the Marianas even though the Legislature fought side by side with the Chamber and HANMI to stop it, and ultimately delayed it. The Unity March exceeded Rev. King's and Gandhi's support numbers to solidly qualify in the historical accounting without legislative support here. The 2005 free trade agreement took effect and the garment industry died without fanfare despite fierce protection from the hill, which included legislation against First Amendment rights. Japan Airlines left us after being gouged beyond reason by the Legislature, which irreparably harmed our reputation with our primary tourism partner, so much so that the Emperor's visit here could spell sayonara. Rep. Sablan's OGA request may be the most important case in NMI history and lack of legislative support or misconduct may still be uncovered. Greg Cruz's letter writing campaign against corruption and legislative ineptitude in our homeland should be noted in the historical documents. Zaldy Dandan's assessment of our societal concerns leaves little to refute. Lack of legislative support for the original HR 3079 will cost us unlimited H visas, a niche that David Cohen said "Silicon Valley would kill for," so that qualifies as economic suicide in the book. The Marianas military buildup could make the book but I predict our Legislature will adversely affect that too. Our long befuddled lawmakers could make the book for not supporting a part-time or unpaid legislature, fiscal irresponsibility regarding the Retirement Fund, CDA, CPA, CUC, and the health care crisis, summarized by your inability to react to a rapidly changing world.

We are glad that you are concerned with our reputation and the historical record though, because your undying support to defend the status quo has guaranteed that a generation of local kids will struggle for the American dream, and has always been my answer to your campaign slogan, "why not."

Ron Hodges
via e-mail

Tinted windshields

Tinted windshields are nice, especially during the day. They not only keeps the sun's rays out, they lessen the heat inside your vehicle and provide privacy (you can see them outside but they can't see you inside). What about at night? Dangerous? What do you think? To those who drive without a heavy/dark tinted vehicle, have you ever been partially blinded by an oncoming vehicle(s) due to its bright light (high beam)? Do you find it disturbing? Did it nearly cause you an accident? Half of those vehicles driving at night with their bright light (high beam) on have dark tint on their windshield (top to bottom). Those drivers with tinted windshield (on high beam) don't realizes that they are causing temporary blindness to those whose cars are not tinted. Let's be honest and admit it: During the day, it's nice but during the night its dangerous. Can you imagine driving at night and it's raining? Twice as dangerous. What do you think?

Joseph M. Palacios
Dandan, Saipan

MANCHUKUO

From Page 10

smart local patronage and consumption.

The land of the Manchus could very well be MVA's target audience. Guangzhou and the Pearl River basin won't bother, for if gambling is what brings them over, Macao and the Pea Eye are closer and provide more diversion. Money laundering is, of course, another matter, but with federalization of immigration, the practice will have to get more sophisticated. Shanghai-Nanjing-Beijing-Tianjin are upscale enough to afford Hawaii and Southeast Asia, were one to go after warmth of culture and the sun. We already have folks from the northeast and the Yangtze River plains in our backyards, leavings from the garment industry. That is a position of advantage we can begin to explore.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Mostly cloudy with scattered showers. Southwest winds 15 to 20 mph.	Mostly cloudy with scattered showers. Southwest winds 10 to 20 mph.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲86° ▼79°	▲86° ▼78°	▲86° ▼78°	▲87° ▼79°	▲87° ▼79°

Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Thunderstorms	▲86	▼79
Palau	Showers	▲86	▼77
Yap	Partly Sunny	▲87	▼78
Chuuk	Showers	▲87	▼77
Pohnpei	Partly Sunny	▲86	▼75
Kosrae	Partly Sunny	▲89	▼79
Majuro	Showers	▲86	▼79

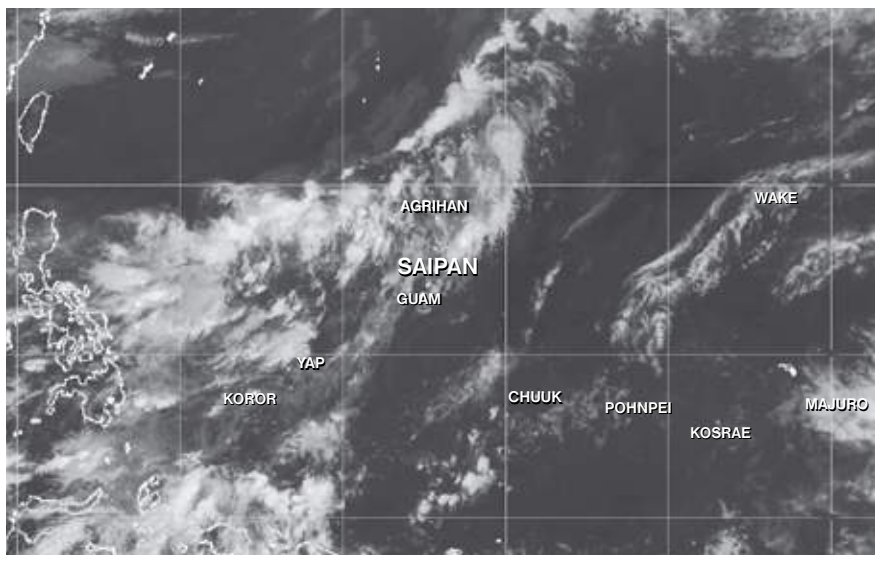
Around The Globe

Auckland	Sunny	▲57	▼39
Beijing	Sunny	▲93	▼57
Hong Kong	Thundershowers	▲86	▼79
Honolulu	Mostly Sunny	▲84	▼73
London	Partly Sunny	▲73	▼54
Los Angeles	Mostly Cloudy	▲75	▼60
Manila	Thunderstorms	▲86	▼79
Melbourne	Showers	▲55	▼50
Miami	Thundershowers	▲87	▼73
New York	Thundershowers	▲81	▼59
Osaka	Partly Sunny	▲81	▼66
Paris	Sunny	▲75	▼50
Pusan	Cloudy	▲78	▼58
Rome	Showers	▲71	▼57
Salem	Partly Sunny	▲76	▼52
San Francisco	Cloudy	▲70	▼55
Seoul	Cloudy	▲77	▼59
Tokyo	Partly Sunny	▲80	▼65
Washington, DC	Cloudy	▲85	▼64

Tides

Saipan Harbor		
3:08 AM Today	High Tide:	1.9 Feet
10:07 AM Today	Low Tide:	0.4 Feet
4:09 PM Today	High Tide:	1.4 Feet
9:30 PM Today	Low Tide:	0.8 Feet

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, MONDAY, JUNE 1, 2009
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A monsoon trough extends northeastward from the central Philippines to 17N130E then through a low-level circulation centered west of the CNMI at 18N135E to beyond 25N145E. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms are occurring along the trough axis within 175 miles of a line from 14N130E to 20N140E to 25N150E. Converging southwest winds south of the monsoon trough are producing scattered showers and a few thunderstorms north of Koror, Yap and Saipan or north of a line from 7N130E to 11N139E to 15N142E to 17N151E. Low-level convergence southwest of a surface ridge is creating scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms south of Koror near the equator south of a line from 4N130E to 3N140E. Trade-wind convergence is combining with upper-level divergence to generate scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms over Majuro and Tarawa Atoll but south of Kwajalein between the equator and 10N from 168E to 180.

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	5:46 AM	6:44 PM
Wednesday	5:46 AM	6:45 PM
Thursday	5:46 AM	6:45 PM
Friday	5:46 AM	6:45 PM
Saturday	5:46 AM	6:46 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	2:00 PM	1:24 AM
Wednesday	2:52 PM	2:03 AM
Thursday	3:45 PM	2:42 AM
Friday	4:38 PM	3:24 AM
Saturday	5:32 PM	4:09 AM

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF MAY 9, 2009

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP)

CO9597	11:50am	12:25pm	1,7

SAIPAN-GUAM

CO9317	4:30am	5:20am	Daily
CO9313	8:30am	9:20am	Daily
CO9597	11:50am	1:20pm	1, 7
CO9601	12:30pm	1:20pm	4, 5
CO9603	3:30pm	4:20pm	Daily
CO9605	6:30pm	7:20pm	Daily
CO9599	9:30pm	10:20pm	Daily

GUAM-ROTA (ROP)

CO9598	2:20am	2:50am	5, 6
CO9312	12:10pm	12:40pm	6

GUAM-PALAU (ROR)

CO893	5:50pm	6:50pm	3, 5
CO953	6:50pm	7:50pm	1, 7
CO953	7:35pm	10:05pm	2, 4, 6

PALAU (ROR)-MANILA

CO893	7:35pm	9:10pm	3, 5

GUAM-MANILA

CO893	5:50pm	9:10pm	3, 5 via ROR
CO933	7:00pm	8:40pm	Daily
PR111	6:00am	7:45am	1, 2, 4, 6, 7

SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)

NW99	6:00am	8:40am	Daily
NW78	9:00am	2:05pm	Daily via NGO
NW75	3:50pm	6:25am	Daily

GUAM-NARITA (NRT)

CO961	6:35am	9:10am	Daily
NW83	8:00am	1:55pm	Daily via KIX
CO6	12:00pm	2:45pm	Daily
NW73	4:05pm	7:00pm	Daily
CO963	4:35pm	7:15pm	Daily

SAIPAN-OSAKA (KIX)

OZ119	4:00am	6:40am	1
OZ119	4:20am	7:00am	4,6

GUAM-OSAKA (KIX)

NW83	8:00am	10:45am	Daily

SAIPAN-NAGOYA (NGO)

NW78	9:00am	11:40am	Daily

GUAM-NAGOYA (NGO)

CO971	7:45am	10:30am	Daily
NW23	4:10pm	7:05pm	Daily
CO975	4:35pm	7:25pm	Daily

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

OZ608	3:20am	6:50am	1, 5

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

OZ604	2:20am	6:00am	1
OZ604	2:50am	6:30am	excl 1
OZ119	4:00am	11:20am	1 via KIX
OZ119	4:20am	11:20am	4, 6 via KIX

SEOUL (ICN)-HONG KONG

OZ721	9:05am	11:45am	Daily
OZ723	7:45pm	10:30pm	Daily

SEOUL (ICN)-MANILA

OZ701	8:35am	11:25am	Daily
OZ703	7:50pm	10:50pm	Daily

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI

FM844	2:50am	5:40am	2, 6

ARRIVALS

ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN

CO9598	3:25am	4:00am	5, 6
CO9312	1:20pm	1:55pm	6

GUAM-SAIPAN

CO9316	2:20am	3:10am	1, 2, 3, 4, 7
CO9598	2:20am	4:00am	5, 6 via ROP
CO9596	7:00am	5:00am	Daily
CO9600	10:20am	11:10am	Daily x6
CO9312	12:10pm	1:55pm	6
CO9602	2:00pm	2:50pm	1, 4, 5, 7
CO9604	5:00pm	5:50pm	Daily
CO9606	8:00pm	8:50pm	Daily

ROTA (ROP)-GUAM

CO9597	12:50pm	1:20pm	1, 7

PALAU (ROR)-GUAM

CO954	1:10am	5:30am	3, 5, 7
CO954	1:45am	4:40am	1, 2
CO892	2:35am	5:30am	4, 6

MANILA-PALAU (ROR)

CO892	10:10pm	1:50am+1	3, 5

MANILA-GUAM

CO892	10:10pm	5:30am+1	3, 5 via ROR
CO934	10:55pm	4:30am+1	Daily
PR110	10:00pm	4:00am	1, 3, 5, 6, 7

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

NW76	10:00am	2:35pm	Daily
NW77	6:30pm	1:40am+1	Daily via NGO
NW100	7:50pm	12:30am+1	Daily

NARITA (NRT)-GUAM

NW74	10:00am	2:50pm	Daily
CO962	10:30am	3:00pm	Daily
CO7	3:50pm	8:25pm	Daily
NW84	6:20pm	1:40am+1	Daily
CO964	8:25pm	1:00am+1	Daily
NW82	8:30pm	1:05am+1	4
NW82	8:30pm	1:20am+1	X 4

OSAKA (KIX)-SAIPAN

OZ120	9:55pm	2:20am+1	3, 5, 6

OSAKA (KIX)-GUAM

NW84	9:05pm	1:40am+1	Daily

NAGOYA (NGO)-SAIPAN

NW77	9:10pm	1:40am	Daily

NAGOYA (NGO)-GUAM

NW24	10:00am	2:35pm	Daily
CO970	11:30am	4:30pm	Daily
CO972	8:25pm	12:55am+1	Daily

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

OZ607	9:00pm	2:20am+1	4, 7

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

OZ120	7:10pm	2:20am+1	3, 5, 6 via KIX
OZ603	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
OZ603	8:10pm	1:40am+1	excl 7

HONG KONG-SEOUL (ICN)

OZ724	12:30am	5:05am	Daily
OZ722	1:15pm	5:45pm	Daily

MANILA-SEOUL (ICN)

OZ702	12:45pm	5:45pm	Daily
OZ704	11:50pm	4:40am+1	Daily

SHANGHAI-SAIPAN

FM843	7:15pm	1:50am+1	1, 5

Editor's Note: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); CO: Continental; FM: Shanghai Airlines; PR: Philippine Airlines; NW: Northwest; OZ: Asiana
ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam-Rota			
FRE 100	7:00am	7:30am	Daily
Rota-Saipan			
FRE 100	7:50am	8:20am	Daily
Saipan-Rota			
FRE 200	9:00am	9:30am	Daily
Rota-Guam			
FRE 200	9:50am	10:15am	Daily
Guam-Rota			
FRE 300	4:00pm	4:30pm	Daily
Rota-Saipan			
FRE 300	4:50pm	5:25pm	Daily
Saipan-Rota			
FRE 400	6:00pm	6:30pm	Daily
Rota-Guam			
FRE 400	6:45pm	7:15pm	Daily
Saipan-Tinian			
FRE 101	6:45am	6:55am	Daily
FRE 103	7:30am	7:40am	Daily
FRE 105	8:00am	8:10am	Daily
FRE 107	8:40am	8:50am	Daily
FRE 109*	9:10am	9:20am	Daily
FRE 111*	10:45am	10:55am	Daily

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
FRE 113	11:40am	11:50am	Daily
FRE 115	1:00pm	1:10pm	Daily
FRE 117	2:30pm	2:40pm	Daily
FRE 119	4:00pm	4:10pm	Daily
FRE 121	4:40pm	4:50pm	Daily
FRE 123 *	5:40pm	5:50pm	Daily
FRE 125 *	6:00pm	6:10pm	Daily
Tinian-Saipan w/ connecting flights to Rota or Guam**			
FRE 102	7:05am	7:15am	Daily
FRE 104	7:50am	8:00am	Daily
FRE 106**	8:20am	8:30am	Daily
FRE 108**	9:00am	9:10am	Daily
FRE 110	10:00am	10:10am	Daily
FRE 112	11:05am	11:15am	Daily
FRE 114	12:00pm	12:10pm	Daily
FRE 116	1:30pm	1:40pm	Daily
FRE 118	2:50pm	3:00pm	Daily
FRE 120**	4:20pm	4:30pm	Daily
FRE 122**	5:00pm	5:10pm	Daily
FRE 124	6:05pm	6:15pm	Daily
FRE 126	6:20pm	6:30pm	Daily

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- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS
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- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS
  A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS
  Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMU'T SARI
  Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
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  Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS
  Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN
  Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

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- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and a phone number.
- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

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- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

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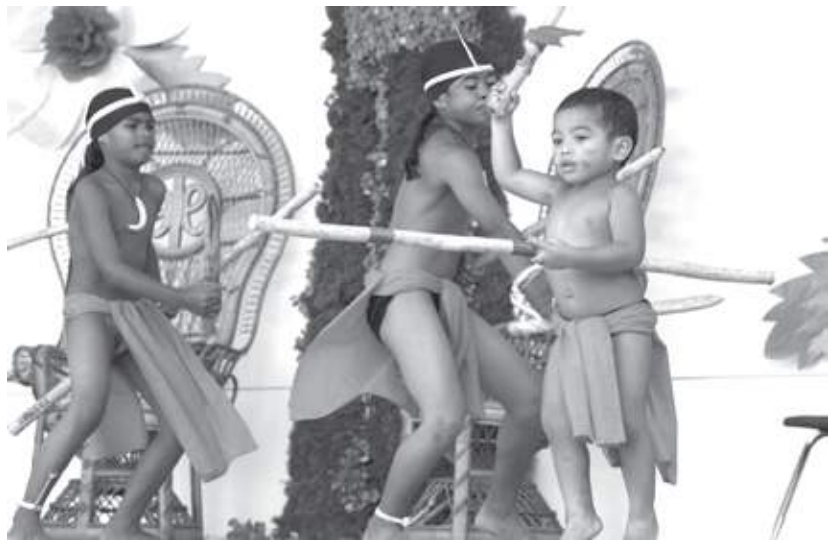
DES Cultural Day

A booth displays Carolinian arts and crafts during Dandan Elementary School's Cultural Day on Saturday.
HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

A big crowd of students, teachers, school administrators, parents and guests cheer on the performances at Dandan Elementary School's Cultural Day on Saturday.
HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Members of the audience join the Inatuas Cultural Dance Club on stage at Dandan Elementary School's Cultural Day on Saturday.
HAIDEE V. EUGENIO



Three-year-old Paulsam Paulis, right, of the C.A.B. Cultural Dance Group, is an instant crowd favorite the moment he stepped on stage during Dandan Elementary School's Cultural Day on Saturday.
HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Dandan Elementary School's fourth graders, garbed in traditional Palauan costume, pose for a group photo during Saturday's Cultural Day festivities.
HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Fifth graders at Dandan Elementary School wear traditional Filipino costumes at the school's Cultural Day on Saturday.
HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Former Gov. Juan N. Babauta is "arrested" by two cadets who led him to the "jail" where he was supposed to be bailed by a friend for $1 every five minutes during the Cultural Day festivities on Saturday at Dandan Elementary School.
HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

The inflatable Jumperoos is by far the most favorite among game booths at Dandan Elementary School's Cultural Day festivities on Saturday.
HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Business

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Geithner sees hopeful signs in US economy

BEIJING (AP)—U.S. Treasury Secretary Timothy Geithner says the U.S. financial system is in much better shape these days and there is more stability in the overall economy. Geithner told reporters traveling with him Beijing that there are a number of signs the U.S. economy is beginning to stabilize. The U.S. has been mired in its longest recession since World War II. But Geithner said much more needs to be done—both in the U.S. and elsewhere—to make a sustainable recovery possible.

First economic espionage trial set in Calif.

SANTA ANA, Calif. (AP)—Dongfan "Greg" Chung developed a reputation as an innovator during his three decades as an engineer for Boeing Co. and Rockwell International. Federal prosecutors say he was also a hardworking spy. On Tuesday, Chung is scheduled to become the first person to stand trial under the Economic Espionage Act, which was passed more than a decade ago. Prosecutors say the Chinese-born Chung, 73, stole hundreds of thousands of pages of highly sensitive documents on the U.S. space shuttle, Delta IV rockets and the C-17 military troop transport, then relayed the secrets to contacts in China. He is free on $250,000 bail after pleading not guilty to eight counts of economic espionage, three counts of lying to a federal agent and one count each of conspiracy, acting as a foreign agent and obstruction of justice.

White House: General Motors to file for bankruptcy

WASHINGTON (AP)—General Motors, the humbled auto giant that has been part of American life for more than 100 years, will file for bankruptcy protection on Monday in a deal that will give taxpayers a 60 percent ownership stake and expand the government's reach into big business.

It would be the largest industrial bankruptcy in U.S. history, and the fourth-largest overall. In addition, a GM bankruptcy would be unprecedented as the federal government would pump billions more into the company.

Underscoring the government's extraordinary role, President Barack Obama planned to announce his support for GM's restructuring strategy at a midday appearance at the White House, much as he did in April when Chrysler sought court protection.

GM president and CEO Fritz Henderson planned to hold a press conference in New York immediately following Obama's announcement.

Administration officials said late Sunday the federal government would pump $30 billion dollars into GM as it makes its way through bankruptcy court. That's besides the $20 billion in taxpayers' money that the Treasury already lent to the automaker.

The money would come from what remains of the $700 billion rescue fund for the financial sector.

The officials, speaking on condition of anonymity in advance of Obama's public remarks, said the administration expects the court process to last 60 to 90 days. If successful, GM will emerge as a leaner company with a smaller work force, fewer plants and a trimmed dealership force. The company will stick with its four core brands—Chevrolet, Cadillac, Buick and GMC.

This April 21, 2009 file photo shows General Motors world headquarters in Detroit. AP

"There is still plenty of pain to go around, but I'm confident this is far better than the alternative," Sen. Carl Levin, D-Mich., said Sunday after being briefed about the developments by the president. "It's a new beginning, it's a rebirth, it's a new General Motors."

The government's ownership stake and huge financial injection represents yet another remarkable intervention into the American private sector. The Treasury has stepped in to help banks, it has taken majority ownership in insurance conglomerate American International Group and it has guided Chrysler through bankruptcy protection proceedings.

Despite its sizable ownership, administration officials said the government intends to stay out of day-to-day management decisions. It says it intends to shed its ownership stakes "as soon as practicable."

"Our goal is to promote strong and viable companies that can quickly be profitable and contribute to economic growth and jobs without government involvement," a fact sheet issued by the White House and the Treasury Department said.

Still, it was the Obama administration that instructed GM to trim itself to a point that it could break even by selling 10 million cars a year. It's current break even point is 16 million cars.

GM plans to name turnaround executive Al Koch to serve as its chief restructuring officer to help the company through bankruptcy protection, said a person familiar with the matter. The person, who spoke on condition of anonymity, was not authorized to speak about the appointment publicly.

Koch, a managing director with AlixPartners LLP, is a veteran turnaround specialist who helped Kmart Corp. through its Chapter 11 reorganization. He will lead the separation of the automaker's assets into a "New GM" and the remaining parts of the company that will form "Old GM." Koch will lead the management team that winds down the "Old GM" company once the automaker emerges from bankruptcy.

A majority of the Detroit automaker's unsecured bondholders have accepted a deal viewed as crucial to reorganization, and Germany agreed to loan $2 billion to GM's German unit, Opel, as part of its acquisition by a Canadian auto parts supplier.

The moves don't change much for GM, but better prepare it for a bankruptcy protection filing, said Rebecca Lindland, an auto analyst for the consulting firm IHS Global Insight.

"The more agreements GM has with its interests, the better the bankruptcy is going to go," she said. "It's not a game changer at all."

It would be the largest industrial bankruptcy in U.S. history, and the fourth-largest overall. In addition, a GM bankruptcy would be unprecedented as the federal government would pump billions more into the company, and take a 72.5 percent interest in the automaker.

On Sunday a group of large, institutional bondholders, representing 54 percent of GM bondholders, agreed to exchange their unsecured bonds for a 10 percent stake in a newly restructured company, plus warrants to purchase a greater share later. They had balked at an earlier offer, that gave them 10 percent of the company without the warrants.

Beyond the bankruptcy announcement Monday, GM is expected to reveal 14 plants it intends to close and name the buyer of its Hummer division. One of those plants, however, will reopen as a new small car factory. The decision to build the new car in the United States appears to address previous labor and congressional concerns that GM was considering importing a small car from its plants in China.

By building the car in the U.S., the share of U.S. produced cars for U.S. sale will increase from 66 percent to more than 70 percent.

In Germany on Sunday, the government agreed to loan GM's Opel unit $2.1 billion, a move necessary for Magna International Inc. to acquire the company.

Foreclosures add to hurricane hazards

LEHIGH ACRES, Fla. (AP)—Mike Manikchand points toward his neighbors—a half-dozen empty, foreclosed-upon homes, sitting on weed-strewn yards—and he wonders: What will happen if a hurricane slams into southwest Florida this year?

His simple answer: "A lot of these places will get destroyed."

Unoccupied, these homes would be defenseless in a storm; there will be no one to put up shutters, batten down garage doors and otherwise secure homes. But that's not all. Nearby homes and their residents would also be at risk from wind-propelled debris.

Lehigh Acres and other communities at the epicenter of the nation's housing crisis are coming to realize that this year's hurricane season, beginning June 1, represents yet another pitfall. Hurricanes could make hazards of thousands of foreclosed-upon houses, and their diminished value could decrease even more.

"Here's your choice," said Julie Rochman, president of the Tampa-based Institute for Business and Home Safety. "Spend a little bit of time and money to secure the properties to withstand wind and water or not do the right thing and have the homes become damaged and are valued less."

The Associated Press Economic Stress Index—a month-by-month analysis of foreclosure, bankruptcy and unemployment rates in more than 3,000 U.S. counties—confirms that some of the areas most likely to be struck by a hurricane are suffering the most in this recession.

In March, there were 281,691 homes in foreclosure in Florida and coastal counties in Alabama, Georgia, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Texas and Virginia.

Mideast airlines reach for the sky

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates (AP)—Arab sheikdoms eager for higher international profiles are ratcheting up their aviation race despite the global economic slump.

On Monday, the city-state Dubai plans to launch its second government-run airline—the third major carrier this decade to spring from the United Arab Emirates, a country of less than a million citizens. The new low-cost airline will cater to budget travelers in a region better known for opulence than bargains.

Unlike their counterparts elsewhere, other Persian Gulf airlines vow to stick to plane delivery schedules, as their deep-pocketed patrons push ahead with ambitious airport expansions. The head of one Gulf carrier has even hinted at another headline-grabbing order at the upcoming Paris Air Show.

The climb to the skies reflects the Gulf nations' drive to rebrand themselves as more than just oil-rich monarchies. Qatar for example is morphing into a research hub because of its natural gas wealth, while Abu Dhabi aims to become a cultural capital on the back of its petrodollars.

But concerns are growing—particularly now that the global economic downturn has undermined demand for long-haul and premium air travel. Some analysts wonder if the region's airlines are stuffing their fleets too quickly with too many planes, much like Dubai's overzealous developers raced to build luxury apartment blocks that now largely stand empty.

Governments still looking at leveraging assets

CHICAGO (AP)—When the nation's economy slumped, so did a high-profile plan for Chicago to make money by privatizing one of its airports. The $2.5 billion deal never got off the ground.

But at the same time, a smaller, less glitzy effort to privatize the city's parking meters took flight. Chicago closed a $1.1 billion, 75-year deal.

Government officials across the country are finding out that in this economy, leasing public assets to private operators can be difficult but not impossible.

Private companies can't borrow the huge amounts needed to give governments a big payday on Day One. So instead, according to financial experts, deals are likely to involve less debt, shorter lease terms, smaller payouts up front and bigger pools of investors.

That means a government may not be able to arrange a $3.85 billion lease on a toll road, as Indiana did in 2006, but it can come up with cash by thinking smaller—like parking.

"Every city in this country is in real financial strain at the moment and every city in this country has parking in some form," said John Schmidt, a partner at the Mayer Brown law firm, which has represented Chicago in its failed airport deal and other leases.

Take Los Angeles.

Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa's proposed budget for the next fiscal year counts on $80 million in revenue from a parking lease deal to help close a $530 million budget gap. Any deal still needs to be approved and the price tag for an eventual transaction isn't known, but it might help the city's budget for years to come.

Parking is a consistent source of revenue no matter the economic conditions and Los Angeles is hoping that makes any deal attractive to investors, Villaraigosa spokesman Matt Szabo said.

"We believe investors will see that as a much more favorable option" than a large airport lease, he said.

Nation

Kan. abortion doc killed in church; suspect held

WICHITA, Kan. (AP)—Dr. George Tiller, one of the nation's few providers of late-term abortions despite decades of protests and attacks, was shot and killed Sunday in a church where he was serving as an usher.

The gunman fled, but a 51-year-old suspect was arrested some 170 miles away in suburban Kansas City three hours after the shooting, Wichita Deputy Police Chief Tom Stolz said.

The suspect's name was not released; police had been looking for a gunman who fled in a car registered in the Kansas City suburb of Merriam.

Stolz said all indications were that the man acted alone, although authorities were investigating whether he had any connection to anti-abortion groups.

Stolz said the man was being brought back to Wichita, where he would likely be charged Monday with one count of murder and two of aggravated assault. Stolz said the gunman threatened two people who tried to stop him.

There was no immediate word of the motive Tiller's assailant. But the doctor's violent death was the latest in a string of shootings and bombings over two decades directed against abortion clinics, doctors and staff.

Long a focus of national anti-abortion groups, including a summer-long protest in 1991, Tiller was shot in the foyer of Reformation Lutheran Church, Stolz said. Tiller's attorney, Dan Monnat, said Tiller's wife, Jeanne, was in the choir at the time.

AP

The body of a shooting victim is removed from the Reformation Lutheran Church in Wichita, Kan., Sunday, May 31, 2009.

The slaying of the 67-year-old doctor is "an unspeakable tragedy," his widow, four children and 10 grandchildren said in statement. "This is particularly heart-wrenching because George was shot down in his house of worship, a place of peace."

The family said its loss "is also a loss for the city of Wichita and women across America. George dedicated his life to providing women with high-quality health care despite frequent threats and violence."

Tiller's Women's Health Care Services clinic is one of just three in the nation where abortions are performed after the 21st week of pregnancy. The clinic was heavily fortified and Tiller often traveled with a bodyguard, but Stolz said there was no indication of security at the church Sunday.

Anti-abortion groups denounced the shooting and stressed that they support only nonviolent protest.

Abortion foes fear backlash to Tiller's murder

NEW YORK (AP)—Anti-abortion leaders voiced concern Sunday that the Obama administration and other Democrats may try to capitalize on the murder of Dr. George Tiller to defuse the abortion issue in upcoming Supreme Court confirmation hearings.

Many anti-abortion groups condemned the killing of Tiller, a prominent abortion provider who was shot dead at his church in Wichita, Kan. But they expressed concern that abortion-rights activists would use the occasion to brand the entire anti-abortion movement as extremist.

They also worried that there would now be an effort to stifle anti-abortion viewpoints during questioning of Supreme Court nominee Sonia Sotomayor. Her exact views on abortion aren't known, but conservatives fear she supports abortion rights. Said the Rev. Patrick Mahoney, an anti-abortion activist: "No one should use this tragedy for political gain."

Tiller, one the few American doctors specializing in late-term abortions, had been the target of repeated protests and harassment for many years, and he was wounded by gunfire from an anti-abortion activist in 1993.

"It is abhorrent that once again, individuals who oppose the right to choose have used violence to try to advance their extreme anti-choice agenda," said Vicki Saporta, president and CEO of the National Abortion Federation.

While many anti-abortion leaders swiftly issued statements condemning the shooting, their expressions of dismay were not echoed by Randall Terry, a veteran anti-abortion activist whose protests have often targeted Tiller.

"George Tiller was a mass murderer and we cannot stop saying that," Terry said. "He was an evil man—his hands were covered with blood."

Terry said he was now concerned that the Obama administration "will use Tiller's killing to intimidate pro-lifers into surrendering our most effective rhetoric and actions."

A month ago, Terry was arrested protesting President Barack Obama's appearance at the University of Notre Dame commencement. The president's graduation speech was dominated by abortion issue—and an appeal for the nation to seek common ground instead of vitriol. Mahoney said he had been conferring with other anti-abortion leaders about how to deal with any backlash to the Tiller killing that might undercut their cause at a time when they are trying to challenge Obama's support for abortion rights.

"I'd hope they wouldn't try to broad-brush the entire pro-life movement as some sort of extremist movement because of what happened in Wichita," Mahoney said. "That's really important—don't use this personal loss for a political gain."

He noted that abortion is likely to be one of the most contentious issues at Sotomayor's confirmation hearings, and expressed hope that the Tiller murder would not be raised there.

Gay marriage debate complicates SF mayor's future

SACRAMENTO, Calif. (AP)—San Francisco Mayor Gavin Newsom has been linked to gay marriage ever since he directed city clerks to issue marriage licenses to same-sex couples in 2004. Now he's running for governor and trying to broaden his appeal, but fate appears to be working against him.

The state Supreme Court's decision to uphold California's constitutional ban on gay marriage—and the prospect that an impassioned initiative to overturn it could share the ballot with next year's governor's race—holds consequences for candidates from both parties, but especially for the one most deeply associated with the issue.

The intensity of a statewide vote on same-sex marriage could make it difficult for Newsom to connect with centrist voters, millions of whom voted no on the issue last year.

"It certainly underlines Gavin Newsom's previous advocacy for same-sex marriage. I think that might be a two-edged sword for him," said Mark DiCamillo, director of the San Francisco-based Field Poll.

Other possible Democratic contenders including Attorney General Jerry Brown, Los Angeles Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa and Lt. Gov. John Garamendi also support same-sex marriage. So does one of the three leading Republican hopefuls, former U.S. Rep. Tom Campbell, but former eBay chief executive Meg Whitman and state Insurance Commissioner Steve Poizner oppose it.

GOP Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger cannot run for re-election next year because of term limits.

Despite their liberal image, California voters have told pollsters repeatedly that they are divided over gay marriage.

Immune therapies finally working against cancer

ORLANDO, Fla. (AP)—First there was surgery, then chemotherapy and radiation. Now, doctors have overcome 30 years of false starts and found success with a fourth way to fight cancer: using the body's natural defender, the immune system.

The approach is called a cancer vaccine, although it treats the disease rather than prevents it.

At a cancer conference Sunday, researchers said one such vaccine kept a common form of lymphoma from worsening for more than a year. That's huge in this field, where progress is glacial and success with a new treatment is often measured in weeks or even days.

Experimental vaccines against three other cancers—prostate, the deadly skin disease melanoma and an often fatal childhood tumor called neuroblastoma—also gave positive results in late-stage testing in recent weeks, after decades of struggles in the lab.

"I don't know what we did differently to make the breakthrough," said Dr. Len Lichtenfeld of the American Cancer Society.

Instead of a single "A-Ha!" moment, there have been many "ah, so" discoveries about the immune system that now seem to be paying off, said Dr. John Niederhuber, director of the National Cancer Institute.

It's way too soon to declare victory. No one knows how long the benefits will last, whether people will need "boosters" to keep their disease in check, or whether vaccines will ever be a cure. Many vaccines must be custom-made for each patient. How practical will that be, and what will it cost?

ACROSS THE NATION

Lawyer: Pa. abduction hoax mom free on bail

PHILADELPHIA (AP)—A Pennsylvania woman accused in an abduction hoax that ended in Florida and involved her 9-year-old daughter is staying with relatives following her release from a county prison, her lawyer said. Bonnie Sweeten, 38, must be supervised when she visits her children as a condition of her bail, attorney Louis R. Busico said in Sunday's editions of The Philadelphia Inquirer and the Bucks County Courier Times. She has two other daughters, ages 15 years and 8 months. Sweeten was released from the Bucks County Correctional Facility in suburban Philadelphia on Saturday after posting $100,000 in cash, or 10 percent of her $1 million bail.

Specter: Not guaranteed free ride in Dem primary

WASHINGTON (AP)—Sen. Arlen Specter said Sunday he did not seek and was not given any assurance that he would not face a primary challenge when he made the decision to leave the Republican party to rejoin the Democratic party. "I didn't ask that the field be cleared. There was no discussion of that," Specter said on "Fox News Sunday" when asked about a possible Democratic primary challenge by Rep. Joe Sestak. "Everybody ought to run if he or she wants to run," Specter said. "And I'm ready to take on all comers."

Trial looms for suspect in alleged jihad plot

ATLANTA (AP)—Armed with a handheld video camera, a Georgia university student drove with a friend in April 2005 to Washington, D.C., and captured scenes of the Capitol, the Pentagon and other locations. Investigators say Syed Haris Ahmed, now 24, wasn't a tourist but a wannabe terrorist who wanted to send the videos of potential terror targets to an overseas contact. He was attending the Georgia Institute of Technology at the time. The charges are central to a federal terrorism case against him that is set to begin Monday, and he could face up to 15 years in prison if convicted. Ahmed is also accused of going to Pakistan and trying to join a terrorism group a few months later, but prosecutors are not pursuing formal charges on that allegation.

Asia

Geithner says global recession losing force

AP

U.S. Treasury Secretary Timothy Geithner delivers his speech at the National School of Development of Beijing University in Beijing, China, Monday, June 1, 2009.

BEIJING (AP)—Treasury Secretary Timothy Geithner said Monday that the global recession seemed to be losing force but that it will be critical for the United States and China to institute major economic reforms to put the world on a more sustained footing.

Geithner said that a successful transition to a more balanced and stable global economy will require substantial changes to economic policy and financial regulation around the world and especially in the world's largest and third largest economies.

"How successful we are in Washington and Beijing will be critically important to the economic fortunes of the rest of the world," Geithner said in a major economic address at Peking University, where he had studied Chinese as a college student more than two decades ago.

The Obama administration's chief economic spokesman was using his first trip to China as treasury secretary to pursue closer economic ties with China, seeking to turn the page on years of acrimony between the two countries over contentious trade issues.

Geithner had told reporters on his way to Beijing that he wanted to foster the same kind of working relationship with China that the United States has enjoyed for decades with major European economic powers.

Reports: NKorea bolsters defenses, prepares ICBM

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—North Korea is bolstering its coastal defenses and preparing to launch another long-range missile, believed to be capable of reaching Alaska, from a new base on its west coast, reports said Monday.

South Korean news reports said North Korea has transported its most advanced missile, which is believed to be able to reach Alaska or Guam, to a newly completed launchpad on its western coast near China.

According to Yonhap news agency, South Korea is also scrutinizing an intelligence report that the North has ordered troops in charge of the disputed western sea border and along the west coast to double their stocks of ammunition.

Yonhap cited an unnamed government official as saying that the activity of vehicles to and from military bases along the coast has increased. The Defense Ministry declined to confirm the report.

South Korean President Lee Myung-bak, hosting a conference of Southeast Asian leaders on the southern island of Jeju, warned North Korea against any provocation.

"If North Korea turns its back on dialogue and peace and dare to carry out military threats and provocations, the Republic of Korea will never tolerate that," Lee said in his regular radio address. "I want to make clear that there won't be any compromise on things that threaten our nation's security."

ASIAN BRIEFS

Trapped residents emerge, seek food in Swat town

MINGORA, Pakistan (AP)—People trapped at home for weeks emerged in search of food at barren shops while corpses lay exposed in the Swat Valley's main city, as a Pakistani official suggested the army offensive against the Taliban in the region could end in days. Elsewhere along the Afghan border area, dozens of militants died in weekend clashes with soldiers in a tribal region, fighting that could nudge the military to expand its offensive beyond Swat. President Asif Ali Zardari on Monday ordered the immediate release of 500 million rupees ($6 million) in emergency relief to help refugees from the fighting

Tiananmen: A battle of remembering vs. forgetting

BEIJING (AP)—As a young poet, Cui Weiping was not much interested in politics. But she says she could never shake the image of her husband returning home on a June night 20 years ago, his pants mottled with the blood of people shot by the Chinese army. Now Cui is speaking out, trying to rescue the memory of the 1989 Tiananmen Square democracy movement and its violent end from a powerful government heavily invested in suppressing their very mention. With the approach Thursday of the 20th anniversary of "six-four," Chinese shorthand for the June 4 crackdown date, this Beijing Film Academy professor feels a duty to remember.

Filipino troops, rebels unite to free tourist

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—Philippine troops and Muslim rebels worked together in a brief, rare alliance Sunday, forcing a group of kidnappers to abandon a Chinese tourist who was abducted in the country's troubled south, officials said. Government forces and the 11,000-strong Moro Islamic Liberation Front have engaged in sporadic but fierce clashes since August, when Malaysian-brokered peace talks collapsed. Government officials and the rebels, however, pledged to cooperate to free Afen Ma Wu, said North Cotabato Governor Jesus Sacdalan. The two sides have agreed in the past to fight criminals and terrorists together. They formed a joint committee to oversee those collaborations that still exists despite renewed clashes.

World

Muslims want change on Mideast from Obama

CAIRO, Egypt (AP)—Respect for Islam, a prescription for Palestinian statehood and assurances of a speedy U.S. pullout from Iraq—that's what Muslims from Morocco to Malaysia say they want to hear from President Barack Obama this week when he addresses them from this Arab capital.

His speech Thursday from Cairo University will try to soften the fury toward the United States among so many of the world's 1.5 billion Muslims, ignited by the U.S. occupation of Iraq and the hands-off attitude toward the Israeli-Palestinian conflict of his predecessor George W. Bush.

Obama's offer of a new beginning is seen as an attempt to stem the growing influence of extremists—particularly Iran, with its regional and nuclear ambitions—and to bolster moderate Muslim allies.

It comes just days ahead of crucial elections in Lebanon and Iran—where the appeal of militancy will be put to the test—and amid worsening violence in Iraq, Afghanistan and Pakistan.

The American leader's soaring oratory and Muslim roots have kindled hope among Muslims. But they will judge him by his actions, not his words, said 20-year-old Mohammed Wasel, sipping sugar cane juice with friends after mosque prayers in Cairo's Abbasiya neighborhood.

"There will be a lot of talk, but I seriously want to see something real coming out of this speech, something tangible," Wasel said, expressing a view shared by an Eritrean social worker in Rome, a retired teacher in Baghdad and a Palestinian mayor in the West Bank.

Obama "has to walk the talk," said social activist Marina Mahathir, daughter of Malaysia's former prime minister, Mahathir Mohamad.

New legal battle looms in Guantanamo

GUANTANAMO BAY NAVAL BASE, Cuba (AP)—A session of the Guantanamo war crimes court that began Sunday will likely show the difficulties President Barack Obama faces in changing the system and closing the prison by January.

The case in question, of a Canadian charged with killing an American soldier, is stalled by infighting among lawyers.

Other defendants have even more complex legal issues, and officials say the U.S. may have to choose between delaying Guantanamo's closure or quickly finding somewhere else to hold the trials.

"I don't think they'll get a single trial done by January," said Michael Berrigan, the deputy chief defense counsel for the Guantanamo tribunals. "I don't think there's any way."

The Guantanamo war court sessions are held in the $12 million Expeditionary Legal Complex, a windowless courthouse of corrugated metal and a network of dozens of tents overlooking the Caribbean that the military says can be picked up and moved if necessary.

But the Obama administration has not found a replacement for Guantanamo. So when the judge in the trial of Omar Khadr decided a pretrial hearing was necessary, the military had no choice but to hastily arrange a charter flight to bring attorneys, court personnel and a dozen journalists to the U.S. base in Cuba.

US committed to new approach for hemisphere

SAN SALVADOR, El Salvador (AP)—A diplomatic tug-of-war over Cuba's outcast status in the Organization of American States takes center stage at the group's meeting this week in Honduras, testing U.S. efforts to engage the communist nation.

Numerous Latin American countries are pushing to reverse the 1962 expulsion of Cuba from the 34-country group, although the Cuban government insists it has no interest in returning.

An OAS official told The Associated Press that a decision on clearing the way for Cuba to rejoin the group could be postponed unless there is a consensus. In that case, Tuesday's meeting could produce a statement supporting efforts to find a solution. Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton, who arrived in El Salvador on Sunday, is scheduled to attend.

Clinton said Sunday the Obama administration was committed to a "new approach to the hemisphere and to Cuba" and was "very pleased" Havana has accepted a U.S. proposal to resume suspended immigration talks and restore direct mail links between the two countries.

"We have said that we look forward to the day when Cuba, if it so wishes, can rejoin the OAS," she said, adding, however, that "we believe that membership in the OAS comes with responsibilities and that the we must all hold each other accountable."

U.S. officials say they are ready to support lifting the resolution that suspended Cuba from the OAS, but want to tie its readmission to democratic reforms. Nicaragua, backed by Venezuela, Bolivia and others, favors an approach that would declare Cuba's expulsion an error and remove all legal hurdles to Cuba's regaining its membership.

WORLD BRIEFS

UK lawmakers should not decide their own salaries

LONDON (AP)—Britain's prime minister, facing a national uproar over lawmakers claiming lavish expenses, promised Sunday to pursue constitutional reforms including a proposal to take away legislators' power to decide their own pay. Gordon Brown said he was shocked by the recent revelations that scores of legislators from all three main political parties had filed claims for a range of expenses from tax advice to swimming pools. He said the government was considering reforms that would mean lawmakers no longer set the rules about their salaries and expenses.

Canada's 'Prince of Pot' at war with US drug war

VANCOUVER, British Columbia (AP)—Psychedelic rock booms through The Vapour Lounge. In the store, young and some not-so-young people smoke pot through a variety of devices. And owner Marc Emery stands in the middle of it all, proclaiming his goal of defeating the U.S. war on drugs. Known as the Prince of Pot, Emery has sold millions of marijuana seeds around the world by mail over the past decade. In doing so, he has drawn the attention of U.S. drug officials, who want him extradited to Seattle. Emery has agreed to plead guilty in Seattle to one count of marijuana distribution in exchange for dismissal of all other counts, and the U.S. District Attorney is pressing for a sentence of five to eight years in a U.S. prison.

6 dead in battle between Hamas, Palestinian police

QALQILIYA, West Bank (AP)—Forces loyal to the moderate Palestinian president stormed a Hamas hideout in the West Bank and set off a fierce gunbattle that left six dead Sunday, the worst violence since the factions fought a pitched battle over Gaza two years ago. Militants lobbed grenades and fired automatic weapons to push back the raid in a two-story building in Qalqiliya, a West Bank town known for its strong Hamas presence. That drew dozens of President Mahmoud Abbas' forces to the hideout. When it was over, pools of blood, tear gas canisters and hundreds of spent shell casings littered the floor. Walls were partly burned down during the battle.

Overdrive

2009 KIA BORREGO LX

Too much of an SUV, too late in the game

BY WARREN BROWN
THE WASHINGTON POST

THE WASHINGTON POST

The 2009 Kia Borrego LX: While in some ways better than its rivals, the Borrego, coming this late to a totally weary market for old-school SUVs, is reminiscent of a guest arriving at a party long after most of the guests have gone home.

It is difficult to wax ecstatic about a vehicle that wanes in enjoyment with each mile behind its wheel. It is no wonder, then, that the muses are on strike in our evaluation of this week's test model, the 2009 Kia Borrego LX with V-8 engine and four-wheel drive.

It is not that the Borrego is a bad machine. Quite the contrary: In most of its particulars—fit and finish, power and even fuel economy—it is as good as anything else in the category of midsize sport-utility vehicles.

In some instances, such as the Borrego's clever inclusion of advanced infotainment technology as standard equipment at an exceptionally competitive price, it is better than its rivals.

The problem is something more subtle, beginning with the realization of the Borrego as yet another traditional SUV with traditional body-on-frame truck construction in a world that has decided, or most certainly is in the process of deciding, that it needs fewer such vehicles.

In that context, had Kia introduced the Borrego a decade or so ago, it could've been a contender.

But coming this late to a totally weary market for old-school SUVs, the Borrego is reminiscent of a guest arriving at a party long after most of the guests have gone home. The host, the U.S. auto market in this case, is polite, but dismissive. The latecomer is served a cold shoulder to encourage quick departure. The party isn't over. But it feels as if it's turning into a wake.

"They are still making these things?" said my wife, Mary Anne.

I assured her that the great industrial "they" were still cranking out traditional SUVs that rode and handled like trucks, as was the case with the Borrego. But production of those models, burdened last summer by expensive gasoline and now crushed under the weight of frozen consumer credit, has been curtailed.

Mary Anne nodded in the manner of someone remembering that, yes, she'd been told that an acquaintance, a person of less than familial or neighborly connection, had died.

Ria Manglapus, my Washington Post associate for vehicle evaluations, was unimpressed.

"Haven't we driven this one before?" she asked.

Yes, we had. But it wasn't an exact copy. Our previous Borrego, driven earlier this year, was a six-cylinder, rear-wheel-drive model versus the eight-cylinder, four-wheel-drive model now in our possession. In short, our first Borrego was a base model. Our EX was a more upscale package situated just below the top-of-the-line Borrego Limited.

"Oh," said Ria, reluctantly turning over the key to the premium luxury, car-based ML550 in exchange for the key to the Borrego.

The Mercedes-Benz ML class, previously wedded to body-on-frame production, now employs lighter unit-body construction, the type used in automobiles. It is more of a wagon-like crossover utility vehicle. It is considerably more expensive than the Borrego, but it is easier to live with on long drives than traditional truck-based models. That means it rides and handles more like a car, which are characteristics many American consumers now want in SUV models—vehicles that look tough and can carry a load, but that feel like something lighter and more manageable than a traditional SUV.

Kia apparently didn't get the message. It should include several cases of Pepsi's trademarked "Throwback" cola in each Borrego it sells, because the Borrego is a throwback, in the most boring manifestation of the concept, if ever there was one.

NUTS & BOLTS

BY WARREN BROWN
THE WASHINGTON POST

COMPLAINT
The 2009 Kia Borrego LX is too old-school to make a favorable impression on a market grown tired of traditional SUVs that ride and handle like the trucks they are. It is a work of limited appeal.

RIDE, ACCELERATION AND HANDLING
Again, it's built like a truck, which means it rides and handles like one. Acceleration with the V-8 engine is highway competitive. The V-6 is more of a right-lane queen.

HEAD-TURNING QUOTIENT
There's nothing exciting here.

BODY STYLE/LAYOUT
The Borrego is a midsize sport-utility vehicle available with rear-wheel-drive or four-wheel-drive. It is built body on frame and is recommended for buyers seeking the moral equivalent of a work truck.

ENGINES/TRANSMISSION
There are two engines and two transmissions. The 3.8-liter V-6 Borrego develops 276 horsepower and 267 foot-pounds of torque. The 4.6-liter V-8 Borrego, driven for this column, delivers a maximum 337 horsepower and 323 foot-pounds of torque. The V-6 is mated to a five-speed automatic transmission. The V-8 gets a six-speed automatic.

CAPACITIES
The Borrego has seats for seven people. Luggage space with all seven seats up is 12.4 cubic feet, but expands to nearly 60 cubic feet when second-row and rear seats are folded down. The Borrego can be equipped to tow up to 7,500 pounds. Fuel capacity is 20.6 gallons.

MILEAGE
The Environmental Protection Agency estimates 15 miles per gallon in the city and 20 miles per gallon on the highway. Our mileage in both cases was somewhat less, largely because we were carrying heavy loads.

SAFETY
Standard equipment includes electronic stability and traction control, four-wheel antilock brakes, side and head air bags.

PRICE
The base price for the 2009 Borrego with V-8 engine and four-wheel drive is $32,995. Dealer's invoice price on that model is $30,410. Price as tested is $37,745, including $4,000 in options (leather seating surfaces, power glass roof, onboard navigation with rearview camera, running boards, premium sound system with 10 speakers and MP3 playback capability, satellite radio, Bluetooth telephone connectivity, and rear air conditioning controls) and a $750 destination charge. Dealer's price as tested is $34,580. Prices are sourced from Kia, Edmunds.com, and Cars.com, an affiliate of The Washington Post.

PURSE-STRINGS NOTE
If you are looking for a bargain on old-school, midsize SUVs, the Borrego is it—especially in the current buyer's market.

Questions about GM's future cloud car-shopping

HAMILTON, Ohio (AP)—In vehicle showrooms across the country, questions about the future of auto giant General Motors Corp. add to the usual haggling and give-and-take.

Car shoppers have been kicking the tires a little more cautiously as salespeople try to ease their worries about service warranties, resale values, and even whether GM dealerships will still be around in another year.

The general manager of Rose Chevrolet in this southwest Ohio city gathered his sales force this weekend ahead of announcements expected Monday that will shape the outlook for a company long intertwined with much of America's daily life.

"Here's what we need to stress, guys," Ed Larkin said at the dealership along a busy highway. "Rose Chevrolet is going to be here; we're going to be here selling vehicles and here to service their vehicles. That isn't going to change."

But GM's troubles—the company is expected to file Monday for bankruptcy court protection—are a concern for those who own or are considering buying one of the company's vehicles in a recession that's eroded the financial security of many households. Customers concerned about being able to service those vehicles must consider GM's plan to force 1,000 to 1,200 underperforming locations to close their doors as the automaker tries to thin dealer ranks to make remaining outlets more profitable. GM plans to cut more than 2,600 dealers by the end of 2010.

"This is a major purchase by consumers; they don't make it very often and they want more stability," said Michael Robinet, vice president of global forecast services for CSM Worldwide, an auto industry consulting company based in Northville, Mich. "Consumer loyalty has been shaken by a lot of factors."

AP

Steve Fischer of Los Angeles contemplates the purchase of a new Chevrolet Corvette, to replace his 2002 model that was struck and totaled a week earlier, at Santa Monica Chevrolet in Santa Monica, Calif., Wednesday, May 27, 2009.

Leo Chavez, a Chicago-area realtor, said he's feeling GM's pain himself. He's been trying to get out of his Pontiac Grand Prix, a discontinued GM line, but said its trade-in value has fallen and dealers use that against him in bargaining.

"I'm very disappointed with GM, I really am," Chavez, 30, said Saturday at Chicago's Grossinger City Autoplex, where he wanted to trade for a used Toyota Camry. "I have more faith (in) Toyota."

Just outside the nation's capital, jazz played in the showroom of an Alexandria, Va., dealership Saturday as veteran car salesman Earl Jones, 50, talked about a year that has been "like being on a rollercoaster."

Foot traffic and sales have slowed at the dealership, he said, and customers have become bolder in demanding bargains on GM cars.

"People come in and they ask us for the most ridiculous deals," Jones said, but added he's going to stay positive as he keeps selling cars.

"They control what they've gotta control," he said of GM's leaders. "In here, I've got to control my destiny."

Life & Style

Last survivor of 'unsinkable' Titanic dies at 97

LONDON (AP)—Millvina Dean, who as a baby was wrapped in a sack and lowered into a lifeboat in the frigid North Atlantic, died Sunday, having been the last survivor of 1912 sinking of the RMS Titanic.

She was 97 years old, and she died where she had lived—in Southampton, England, the city her family had tried to leave behind when it took the ship's ill-fated maiden voyage, bound for America.

She died in her sleep early Sunday, her friend Gunter Babler told the Associated Press. It was the 98th anniversary of the launch of the ship that was billed as "practically unsinkable."

Babler said Dean's longtime companion, Bruno Nordmanis, called him in Switzerland to say staff at Woodlands Ridge Nursing Home in Southampton discovered Dean in her room Sunday morning. He said she had been hospitalized with pneumonia last week but she had recovered and returned to the home.

A staff nurse at the nursing home said late Sunday that no one would comment until administrators came on duty Monday morning.

Dean was just over 2 months old when the Titanic hit an iceberg on the night of April 14, 1912. The ship sank in less than three hours.

Dean was one of 706 people—mostly women and children—who survived. Her father was among the 1,517 who died.

Babler, who is head of the Switzerland Titanic Society, said Dean was a "very good friend of very many years."

"I met her through the Titanic society but she became a friend and I went to see her every month or so," he said.

The pride of the White Star line, the Titanic had a mahogany-paneled smoking room, a swimming pool and a squash court. But it did not have enough lifeboats for all of its 2,200 passengers and crew.

Dean's family were steerage passengers setting out from the English port of Southampton for a new life in the United States. Her father had sold his pub and hoped to open a tobacconists' shop in Kansas City, Missouri, where his wife had relatives.

AP

A May 19, 2003 photo from files of Millvina Dean the last living survivor of the Titanic disaster with a painting of the vessel, at an unknown location in England.

Initially scheduled to travel on another ship, the family was transferred to the Titanic because of a coal strike. Four days out of port and about 600 kilometers (380 miles) southeast of Newfoundland, the ship hit an iceberg. The impact buckled the Titanic's hull and sent sea water pouring into six of its supposedly watertight compartments.

Dean said her father's quick actions saved his family. He felt the ship scrape the iceberg and hustled the family out of its third-class quarters and toward the lifeboat that would take them to safety. "That's partly what saved us—because he was so quick. Some people thought the ship was unsinkable," Dean told the British Broadcasting Corp. in 1998.

Wrapped in a sack against the Atlantic chill, Dean was lowered into a lifeboat. Her 2-year-old brother Bertram and her mother Georgette also survived.

"She said goodbye to my father and he said he'd be along later," Dean said in 2002. "I was put into lifeboat 13. It was a bitterly cold night and eventually we were picked up by the Carpathia."

The family was taken to New York, then returned to England with other survivors aboard the rescue ship Adriatic. Dean did not know she had been aboard the Titanic until she was 8 years old, when her mother, about to remarry, told her about her father's death. Her mother, always reticent about the tragedy, died in 1975 at age 95.

Born in London on Feb. 2, 1912, Elizabeth Gladys "Millvina" Dean spent most of her life in the English seaside town of Southampton, Titanic's home port. She never married, and worked as a secretary, retiring in 1972 from an engineering firm.

She moved into a nursing home after breaking her hip about three years ago. She had to sell several Titanic mementoes to raise funds, prompting her friends to set up a fund to subsidize her nursing home fees. Leonardo DiCaprio and Kate Winslet, the stars of the film "Titanic," pledged their support to the fund last month.

For most of her life Dean had no contact with Titanic enthusiasts and rarely spoke about the disaster. Dean said she had seen the 1958 film "A Night to Remember" with other survivors, but found it so upsetting that she declined to watch any other attempts to put the disaster on celluloid, including the 1997 blockbuster "Titanic."

She began to take part in Titanic-related activities in the 1980s, after the discovery of the ship's wreck in 1985 sparked renewed interest in the disaster. At a memorial service in England, Dean met a group of American Titanic enthusiasts who invited her to a meeting in the U.S.

She visited Belfast to see where the ship was built, attended Titanic conventions around the world—where she was mobbed by autograph seekers—and participated in radio and television documentaries about the sinking.

Charles Haas, president of the New-Jersey based Titanic International Society, said Dean was happy to talk to children about the Titanic. "She had a soft spot for children," he said. "I remember watching was little tiny children came over clutching pieces of paper for her to sign. She was very good with them, very warm."

In 1997, Dean crossed the Atlantic by boat for the first time, on the QEII luxury liner, and finally visited Kansas City, declaring it "so lovely I could stay here five years." She was active well into her 90s, but missed the commemoration of the 95th anniversary of the disaster in 2007 after breaking her hip.

Dean had no memories of the sinking and said she preferred it that way. "I wouldn't want to remember, really," she told The Associated Press in 1997. She opposed attempts to raise the wreck 4,000 meters (13,000 feet) from the sea bed.

"I don't want them to raise it, I think the other survivors would say exactly the same," she said in 1997. "That would be horrible."

The last survivor with memories of the sinking—and the last American survivor—was Lillian Asplund, who was 5 at the time. She died in May 2006 at the age of 99. The second-last survivor, Barbara Joyce West Dainton of Truro, England, died in October 2007 aged 96.

UK talent show star Boyle goes from wow to not now

LONDON (AP)—How could Susan Boyle lose?

Here after all was the Scottish spinster who stepped up to a microphone at a British talent show seven weeks ago wearing an ill-fitting dress and tousled hair only to stun the audience with the voice of a Broadway star. The video of her first appearance on "Britain's Got Talent" had 220 million hits. Demi Moore twittered her praise.

The bookies made her the favorite; no one dreamed she could lose a public vote for the best act.

But like everything to do with celebrity in Britain, what went up inevitably crashed in a heap of stories about prima donna behavior. The public apparently grew tired of the fuss.

Boyle on Saturday found herself to be a celebrity supernova, eclipsed by a clever street dancing troupe from Essex, east of London.

"I'm only sorry that the extraordinary tidal wave of publicity she attracted meant so many people got either bored or irritated by Boyle mania and decided not to vote for her as a result," contest judge and former tabloid editor Piers Morgan wrote on his blog.

Boyle dominated the tabloids for weeks. At first, they loved her. She was the frumpy everywoman who belted out "I Dreamed a Dream," from Les Miserables—a song about lost opportunities that mirrored her own story. Readers warmed to the woman who had been bullied as a child, who had learning disabilities, who sacrificed everything for her aging parents.

But as the video got hits, Boyle tampered with some of the things the public liked best. She dyed her hair. She got new clothes. She tweezed her bushy eyebrows.

The national mood changed.

Britain's tabloid newspapers wrote about how Boyle had lost her temper and swore at two journalists who were taunting her at a London hotel. Singer Lily Allen declared on Twitter that Boyle was "overrated." Psychologist David Wilson wrote in the Daily Mail that Boyle was being led like "a psychological lamb to the slaughter."

AP

Members of the 11 strong dance group Diversity pose for the media at a press conference in London, England, Sunday, May 31, 2009.

"Never in our fast-changing history, until Susan Boyle, have we managed to quite so swiftly canonize and then pillory another human being, for our own titillation," The Observer newspaper wrote Sunday after Boyle's defeat.

As the final neared, her supporters suggested all the attention had left Boyle in a volatile state. Morgan said that nerves were "almost crippling her" and called for everyone to back off and give her room to breathe.

On the night itself, she appeared on stage in a glamorous sparkly floor-length dress and sang. But by now, there was no surprise that she could sing. There was no wow.

The comments by the judges were warm, but some of the remarks suggested that they, too, had been worried she might crack under the strain.

"A lot of people said you shouldn't even be in this competition, that you weren't equipped to deal with it," judge Simon Cowell told Boyle after her performance. "For what? For you to sit at home with your cat and say 'I've missed an opportunity?' I totally disagree with that. You had the guts to come back here and face your critics and you beat them."

She smiled, but seemed shy, almost scared.

By contrast, the winning group, "Diversity"—11 dancers aged 12 to 25—mesmerized the audience with a frenetic but precisely choreographed dance routine that featured a Superman costume and a move that poked fun at the way the show's judges used buzzers to dump second-rate contestants.

'Twilight' takes a bite out of MTV Movie Awards

REPORTER'S NOTEBOOK

The view from the Movie Awards audience

By SANDY COHEN
AP ENTERTAINMENT WRITER

UNIVERSAL CITY, Calif. (AP)—Here's what one writer was seeing from her vantage point inside and outside the Gibson Amphitheatre at the MTV Movie Awards.

■ ■ ■

Just opposite the fan bleachers, folks are practicing cheering for the camera. Early celeb sightings include "Project Runway" winner Christian Siriano and MTV reality star Stephanie Pratt.

■ ■ ■

Anna Faris gives a big wave to fans on the red carpet but doesn't stop to chat. Jonah Hill, on the other hand, slaps high-fives with fans.

■ ■ ■

Whitney Port, formerly of "The Hills," is ushered to her seat with a drink in each hand. Audrina Patridge needs no escort: She and her drink find their seat near the front just fine.

■ ■ ■

Two minutes to showtime and they're testing smoke machines. A man yelling into his microphone is urging guests in the front to stand up and dance during performances.

■ ■ ■

Robert Pattinson shares a word with "Twilight" director Catherine Hardwicke before he's called on stage to present an award. He does his famous hair-grab with his left hand while he shakes fans' hands with his right, and is moved to a seat close to costar Cam Gigandet just before the two win for best fight.

■ ■ ■

Shia LaBeouf is ushered through a side door onstage during the first commercial break. Meanwhile, Patridge scoots up the stairs back to the bar area. Earlier, she coyly denied that she's dating Star Trek star Chris Pine.

■ ■ ■

Will Ferrell shakes hands with Jon Voight during a commercial break. Hayden Panettiere gets a hug from "Twilight" director Catherine Hardwicke as she heads up the auditorium stairs. Vanessa Hudgens rushes back to her seat before the commercial break ends.

■ ■ ■

Kristen Stewart is wearing Chuck Taylor sneakers with her dress.

■ ■ ■

Paris Hilton skips—literally skips—up the stairs with her Blackberry in one hand and boyfriend Doug Reinhardt's hand in the other.

■ ■ ■

After Kings of Leon performs, Lauren Conrad stops by to greet former "The Hills" costar Port. Panettiere walks through the theater with "Heroes" costar Zachary Quinto.

■ ■ ■

Jim Carrey does a sexy dance with his award before leaving the stage.

By DERRIK J. LANG
AP ENTERTAINMENT WRITER

LOS ANGELES (AP)—The MTV Movie Awards were a blood bath Sunday night with "Twilight" taking five trophies, including best movie. But it was Sacha Baron Cohen who gave the show it's trademark bizarro moment when he landed upside-down on the lap of Eminem, who may or may not have been deeply offended.

"Twilight," the popular vampire drama starring Robert Pattinson and Kristen Stewart, sucked up golden popcorn trophies for best movie, best fight, best kiss, breakthrough male performance and breakthrough female performance during Sunday's freewheeling and often-bleeped ceremony at the Gibson Amphitheatre in Universal City, Calif.

"The fans are the ultimate driving force," Stewart said while accepting her best female performance trophy (which she promptly dropped on the floor, breaking off a chunk of the golden popcorn). Awards were decided by fan votes.

Other winners included "High School Musical 3: Senior Year" star Zac Efron for male performance and his co-star Ashley Tisdale for female breakthrough performance. Miley Cyrus accepted the best song from a movie prize for "The Climb" from "Hannah Montana: The Movie," preventing "Twilight" from sweeping all six nominated categories.

An award new to this year, the "WTF moment," went to Amy Poehler's scene in "Baby Mama" where she urinates in a sink.

But even that was upstaged by Baron Cohen, who flew in on a wire, hanging above the audience. Dressed as flamboyant character "Bruno" in a pair of feathery white wings and his rear end mostly exposed, the comedian crashed into an overhead obstacle and was lowered headfirst into the lap of Eminem, his bare hindquarters in the rapper's face.

"Is the real Slim Shady about to stand up?" chirped Baron Cohen.

Eminem seemed visibly upset by the encounter, and members of his entourage roughly removed Baron Cohen as the rapper struggled to get out. But had the self-styled homophobic rapper been punked by Baron Cohen and MTV, or was he in on the elaborate stunt?

Free of the scene, Eminem stormed out with his entourage in tow—and cameras rolling—and hit the exits.

Baron Cohen's descent to the audience was included in rehearsals, but Eminem—who performed Sunday night—didn't take part in that piece of the run-through. As the rapper stormed off, it sounded as though he was wearing a microphone, and cameras were in position to record his fast exit, but he was not seen or heard from again.

Baron Cohen's publicist, Matthew Labov, had no comment when reached after the show. A spokeswoman for MTV would not confirm whether Eminem was caught by surprise, and representatives for the rapper did not immediately return requests for comment Sunday night.

It wasn't the first tantrum for Slim Shady at an MTV ceremony: Sparks flew when the rapper was interviewed by Triumph the Insult Comic Dog at 2002's MTV Video Music Awards.

Before this year's broadcast, Heath Ledger was awarded the best villain trophy for his twisted turn as the Joker in "The Dark Knight." Jim Carey later won for best comedic performance for "Yes Man." Ben Stiller received the MTV Generation Award, the show's highest honor.

AP
Robert Pattinson, left, and Kristen Stewart accept the award for best kiss for " Twilight" at the MTV Movie Awards on Sunday May 31, 2009, in Universal City, Calif.

Heath Ledger wins for best villain at MTV Awards

LOS ANGELES (AP)—The late Heath Ledger was awarded the best villain trophy at the MTV Movie Awards for his twisted turn as the Joker in "The Dark Knight." The honor was announced by MTV News correspondent Sway on the red carpet during an episode of the reality series "The Hills" before the Sunday ceremony was scheduled to begin.

Teenage vampire saga "Twilight" and game show drama "Slumdog Millionaire" are both up for six awards, including best movie and best kiss, at the Sunday award show honoring the best in film from the past year as voted on by viewers. Other best movie contenders are "The Dark Knight," "Iron Man" and "High School Musical 3: Senior Year."

Up for best kiss at the Gibson Amphitheatre in Universal City, Calif., are the lip-locks of Angelina Jolie and James McAvoy in "Wanted"; Freida Pinto and Dev Patel in "Slumdog Millionaire"; James Franco and Sean Penn in "Milk"; Paul Rudd and Thomas Lennon in "I Love You, Man"; and Vanessa Hudgens and Zac Efron in "High School Musical 3."

The ceremony will be hosted by Andy Samberg and feature musical performances from Kings of Leon and Eminem. The MTV Generation Award, the ceremony's highest honor, will be presented to Ben Stiller. Two new categories are set to debut at this year's show: best song from a movie and best WTF moment, which honors the most jaw-dropping movie moment of the year.

Other golden popcorn trophies will be awarded in such categories as best villain, best comedic performance and best fight. In addition to handing out awards for movies from the past year, MTV is promising to debut new footage from upcoming films "Transformers: Revenge of the Fallen," "New Moon" and "Harry Potter and the Half Blood Prince" during the ceremony.

Presenters scheduled to hand out golden popcorn trophies Sunday include Shia LaBeouf, Megan Fox, Denzel Washington, Cameron Diaz, Ryan Reynolds, Sandra Bullock, Sienna Miller, Channing Tatum, Bradley Cooper, Abigail Breslin, Danny McBride, Will Ferrell, Leighton Meester, Jonah Hill and Lil Wayne.

In addition to handing out awards for movies from the past year, MTV debuted new footage from the upcoming films "Transformers: Revenge of the Fallen," "Harry Potter and the Half Blood Prince" and "New Moon." The highlight of the "Twilight" sequel clip: A newly buff Taylor Lautner transformed instantly into a giant, menacing canine, fans' first look at one of the storyline's werewolves.

Samberg kicked off the show with a movie mash-up featuring cameos from Taylor Swift and Justin Timberlake before launching into an on-stage rap performance in which he attempted to woo a surly-looking Megan Fox in the audience. Samberg later crooned with Will Ferrell during a movie montage that poked fun at "cool guys" in movies who "don't look at explosions"—and they had more than enough clips to work with, including shots of Duane Johnson, John Travolta, Will Smith, Denzel Washington and several others walking nonchalantly away from a bursting inferno.

Bare-butt 'Bruno' lands on Eminem at Movie Awards

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Eminem apparently has flown the coop from the MTV Movie Awards after a close encounter with Sacha Baron Cohen.

In character as flamboyant fashion reporter "Bruno," Baron Cohen flew in above Sunday's award show audience on a wire—and in a pair of feathery white wings and his rear end mostly exposed.

But the comedian crashed into an overhead obstacle, and he was lowered into the audience—right into Eminem's lap, his bare hindquarters in the rapper's face.

Eminem seemed visibly upset at the mishap. Or was it a joke he was in on?

The rapper stormed out with his entourage in tow—and cameras rolling. In 2002, Sparks flew when the rapper was interviewed by Triumph the Insult Comic Dog at the MTV Video Music Awards.

AP
Sacha Baron Cohen, in character as Bruno, is lowered into the audience during the MTV Movie Awards on Sunday May 31, 2009, in Universal City, Calif.

Pixar goes 'Up' with $68.2 million debut weekend

LOS ANGELES (AP)—The animated action comedy "Up" took flight with a $68.2 million opening weekend, maintaining a perfect box-office track record for Pixar Animation, whose 10 films all have been commercial and critical hits.

"Up" had the third-best opening for a film from Disney-owned Pixar, just behind the $70 million debuts for "Finding Nemo" and "The Incredibles." Last summer's Disney-Pixar release, "WALL-E," debuted with $63.1 million.

Like its Pixar predecessors, which include the "Toy Story" movies," "Finding Nemo" and "Ratatouille," "Up" earned glowing reviews from critics.

"Usually things that are very popular with audiences don't necessarily go over that well with critics. These things do both, and pretty much consistently every time," said Hollywood.com box-office analyst Paul Dergarabedian. "The Disney-Pixar collaboration is probably the closest thing to box-office perfection out there."

1. "**Up**," $68.2 million.
2. "**Night at the Museum: Battle of the Smithsonian**," $25.5 million.
3. "**Drag Me to Hell**," $16.6 million.
4. "**Terminator Salvation**," $16.1 million.
5. "**Star Trek**," $12.8 million.
6. "**Angels & Demons**," $11.2 million.
7. "**Dance Flick**," $4.9 million.
8. "**X-Men Origins: Wolverine**," $3.9 million.
9. "**Ghosts of Girlfriends Past**," $1.9 million.
10. "**Obsessed**," $665,000.

"Up" took over the No. 1 spot from 20th Century Fox's "Night at the Museum: Battle of the Smithsonian," which slipped to second-place with $25.5 million. The "Museum" sequel raised its 10-day total to $105.3 million.

The weekend's other new wide release, Universal Pictures' horror tale "Drag Me to Hell," opened at No. 3 with $16.6 million. It was a relatively modest return for director Sam Raimi, whose three "Spider-Man" movies had blockbuster opening weekends.

Paramount Pictures' "Star Trek" steered a strong course, coming in at No. 5 with $12.8 million and passing the computer-animated "Monsters vs. Aliens" as the year's top-grossing movie so far.

"Star Trek" raised its domestic total to $209.5 million, becoming the first 2009 release to cross the $200 million mark.

"Up" features the voice of Ed Asner in the adventures of a lonely widower who ties helium balloons to his house and flies to a South American adventure with a 9-year-old stowaway.

"An elderly gentleman and a young boy traveling off to South America; it's not your typical animated story and not necessarily the easiest story to convey," said Mark Zoradi, president of Disney's motion-picture group. "That's why I give a lot of credit to the marketing team for taking a movie that wasn't easy to convey to the public and opening it to the highest levels of animation that we've ever done for an original story."

A scene from Disney-owned Pixar's latest movie, "Up."

Factoring in higher admission prices, earlier Pixar movies such as "Toy Story 2" and "Monsters, Inc." sold more tickets than "Up" over their first weekends.

"Up" drew both family crowds and adults without children, and the film's 3-D release accounted for 51 percent of the total gross, according to Disney.

Hollywood finished the month with record revenues of $1.02 billion, coming in slightly ahead of the previous high in May 2007, according to Hollywood.com.

Momentum for the year continued to slow from the record pace set in the first four months of 2009. While May revenues came in 4.7 percent above those of May 2008, Hollywood has not yet had a sky-high opening on the order of last year's action hits "Iron Man" and "Indiana Jones and the Kingdom of the Crystal Skull," which both topped $300 million domestically.

Overall weekend revenues were at $167 million, virtually even with the same period last year.

Total revenues for 2009 rose to $4.1 billion, up 13.7 percent. Movie attendance was about 11 percent ahead of last year's.

Estimated ticket sales for Friday through Sunday at U.S. and Canadian theaters, according to Hollywood.com. Final figures will be released Monday.

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UP

Friday		4:05	7:10	9:35
Saturday	1:05	4:05	7:10	9:35
Sunday	1:05	4:05	7:10	
Mon thru Thurs		4:05	7:10	

Edgar Asner, Paul Eiding
Comedy, Adventure, Family • Rated PG

Synopsis
Carl Fredricksen is a 78 year old balloon salesman who finally fulfills his lifelong dream of a great adventure when he ties thousands of balloons to his house and flies away to the wilds of South America. But he discovers all too late that his biggest nightmare has stowed away on the trip—an overly optimistic 8-year-old Wilderness Explorer named Russell.

Drag Me To Hell

Friday		4:25	7:20	9:55
Saturday	1:30	4:25	7:20	9:55
Sunday	1:30	4:25	7:20	
Mon thru Thurs		4:25	7:20	

Alison Lohman, Justin Long
Drama, Thriller, Horror • Rated PG 13

Synopsis
Christine Brown is an ambitious L.A. loan officer with a charming boyfriend, Professor Clay Dalton. Life is good until the mysterious Mrs. Ganush arrives at the bank to beg for an extension on her home loan. Should Christine follow her instincts and give the old woman a break? Or should she deny the extension to impress her boss, Mr. Jacks, and get a leg-up on a promotion?

★ ★ ★

Terminator Salvation

Friday		4:15	7:30	10:00
Saturday	1:10	4:15	7:30	10:00
Sunday	1:10	4:15	7:30	
Mon thru Thurs		4:15	7:30	

Christian Bale, Sam Worthington
Action, Sci-Fi • Rated PG 13

Synopsis
The year is 2018. Judgment Day has come and gone, leveling modern civilization. An army of Terminators roams the post-apocalyptic landscape, killing or collecting humans where they hide in the desolate cities and deserts. But small groups of survivors have organized into a Resistance, hiding in underground bunkers and striking when they can against an enemy force that vastly outnumbers them.

Angels and Demons

Friday		4:20	7:05	9:50
Saturday	1:20	4:20	7:05	9:50
Sunday	1:20	4:20	7:05	
Mon thru Thurs		4:20	7:05	

Tom Hanks, Ewan McGregor
Thriller, Religion • Rated PG 13

Night at the Museum 2

Friday		4:10	7:15	9:40
Saturday	1:15	4:10	7:15	9:40
Sunday	1:15	4:10	7:15	
Mon thru Thurs		4:10	7:15	

Den Stiller, Amy Adams
Comedy, Sequel • Rated PG

Star Trek

Friday		4:00	7:00	9:45
Saturday	1:00	4:00	7:00	9:45
Sunday	1:00	4:00	7:00	
Mon thru Thurs		4:00	7:00	

Chris Pine, Winona Ryder
Sci-Fi, Adaptation • Rated PG 13

Dance Flick

Friday		4:30	7:25	9:30
Saturday	1:25	4:30	7:25	9:30
Sunday	1:25	4:30	7:25	
Mon thru Thurs		4:30	7:25	

Damon Wayans, Jr., Craig Wayans
Action, Comedy • Rated PG 13

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Cheney, Powell interviews winners for Schieffer

NEW YORK (AP)—While followers of the Sunday morning political shows obsess about which host best represents the genre's future, a man who's proven an utter failure at setting retirement dates is making some noise.

CBS "Face the Nation" host Bob Schieffer's bookend interviews with Dick Cheney and Colin Powell in May made news and offered riveting inside looks at old conflicts within the Bush administration and the current struggle for the future of the Republican Party.

Schieffer and former Vice President Cheney go way back. When Cheney was chief of staff for President Gerald Ford in the 1970s, Schieffer said he was the most open and accessible person he's ever seen in the role, a contrast to his public image as vice president. With Cheney speaking out against President Barack Obama, Schieffer invited him on "Face the Nation." It was accepted within 10 minutes.

Schieffer

"I can't remember a story that got as much pick-up and reaction as that one did," Schieffer said of the May 10 appearance.

After a lengthy discussion about Cheney's views on fighting terrorism, the former vice president visibly startled Schieffer by calling Rush Limbaugh a better Republican than his former colleague Powell. In fact, Cheney considered Powell an ex-Republican for backing Obama in last year's election.

Schieffer knew immediately he'd struck gold.

"You never know 'til you ask," he said. "I would have thought he would have gracefully sidestepped that question, off the top of my head ... That's what I always tell people in journalism lectures: You don't want to assume when you ask someone a question that you know what he's going to answer."

Powell just as quickly accepted Schieffer's invitation and appeared two weeks later. Schieffer, who asks methodical, get-the-facts questions in a Texas twang, brought up Cheney's comments immediately. He replayed that segment of Cheney's interview on a split screen that showed Powell's impassive face watching the tape.

He may be soft-spoken and carry a military man's demeanor, but Powell did some slicing and dicing of his own. He pointed out that Cheney not only opposed Obama on the closing of the Guantanamo Bay prison, he opposed George Bush. Powell said he decided whether or not he was a Republican—not Cheney or Limbaugh.

"It's just a good story, really, the story of where the Republican Party is right now and where it is going and what does it want to be," Schieffer said. The two men also conducted the debate over Guantanamo that didn't come during the 2008 campaign, he said.

The interviews continued a good run for "Face the Nation," which had its largest audience in five years when Obama appeared on March 29. With an average of 2.55 million viewers each week during May, "Face the Nation" is right behind ABC's "This Week" with George Stephanopoulos, at 2.72 million viewers. Both broadcasts are up 3 percent over May 2008, according to Nielsen Media Research.

Report: Thornton's daughter charged in kid's death

OCOEE, Fla. (AP)—The oldest daughter of Billy Bob Thornton faces charges in the death of a 1-year-old girl she was babysitting in October, a celebrity gossip Web site reported Sunday.

Ocoee (oh COH' ee) police confirmed that 29-year-old Amanda Brumfield is charged with child neglect causing harm or disability and was in custody.

Web site tmz.com reported she is Thornton's daughter, but police spokesman Lee Stephens said the police records department was closed Sunday and he couldn't find out whether Brumfield is related to Thornton.

Brumfield told detectives that a girl she was babysitting hit her head in a fall in an Ocoee home on Oct. 3, Detective James Berish said in a news release. Brumfield called for help more than two hours later when she couldn't revive the girl, police in the city near Orlando said.

An autopsy determined the girl had a fractured skull and brain injury. The medical examiner ruled the death a homicide and said the explanation Brumfield gave was inconsistent with the child's injuries, police said.

Thornton's publicist Arnold Robinson said the actor has not had contact with Brumfield for quite some time. He wouldn't confirm that Brumfield was the woman arrested, but that when Thornton was "informed about this situation" he commented that, "Anytime a baby's life is lost is an unimaginable tragedy and my heart goes out to the baby's family and loved ones."

Police did not know whether Brumfield had an attorney.

Fats Domino makes rare appearance at La. concert

NEW ORLEANS (AP)—Fats Domino rarely emerges from his Louisiana home—and many wondered if he'd show up for "The Domino Effect," his namesake concert that raises funds to help rebuild schools and playgrounds damaged by Hurricane Katrina.

Sure enough, the 81-year-old New Orleans native smiled and waved from his private suite to more than 3,000 cheering people who attended Saturday's concert to see two of his old friends perform—Little Richard and B.B. King. Domino is an icon in New Orleans, known nearly as much for his reclusiveness as for hits like "Blueberry Hill" and "Ain't That a Shame."

Little Richard, at the piano in a sparkly white suite, delivered an energetic set that included "Lucille," "Tutti Frutti" and other hits.

Between songs, he reminisced about New Orleans and Domino. Richard's breakout hit "Tutti Frutti" was recorded at Cosimo Matassa's studio in New Orleans in 1955.

"I was right here," Richard said, playing the piano as he talked. "I was right here."

Richard said he remembered being on the road with Domino, who always longed to be back home. Then Richard broke into song: "Every night about this time, I go to sleep to keep from cryin'."

AP

Fats Domino visits with Little Richard in a dressing room after Richards' performance at The Domino Effect, a tribute concert for Domino, at the New Orleans Arena in New Orleans, Saturday, May 30, 2009.

While on stage, Richard was given a plaque inducting him into the Louisiana Music Hall of Fame. He said he was surprised and touched.

Domino and Richard met backstage, where the men hugged, made small talk and posed for pictures. Richard's handlers handed out free inspirational pamphlets to fans during the concert, and backstage, he asked Domino and others to pray with him.

"Bless this life," Richard prayed, his head bowed, "and bless this music."

Domino also met with King after his blues set, which included the hit, "The Thrill is Gone."

As King walked off stage, Domino greeted him with a hug.

"It's good to see you my friend," King told Domino. "Did you bring me some gumbo?"

King said he used to open shows for Domino in the early years of his career. In 2007, King recorded the title track on a tribute album to Domino, called "Goin' Home."

Saturday's concert ran more than four hours and included performances by Chuck Berry, Wyclef Jean, Keb' Mo' and Junior Brown. Comedian-actor Tracy Morgan, best known for his work on the TV shows "Saturday Night Live" and "30 Rock," also performed.

Proceeds from the event are earmarked for "Operation Kids," a program run through Saints quarterback Drew Brees' foundation to improve the city's parks and schools.

Brees attended the concert with wife, Brittany, and dozens of the couple's closest friends and family. All got to meet Domino.

It wasn't the first time Drew Brees met the music legend. Brees said he got to hang out at Domino's home in the New Orleans suburb of Harvey a few weeks ago. He said Domino showed him his gold record collection and played the piano.

"How many people get to say they got to do that?" he said.

ENTERTAINMENT TIDBITS

Actress Lori Petty arrested on suspicion of DUI

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Police in Los Angeles say "Point Break" actress Lori Petty has been arrested on suspicion of drunken driving after she struck and injured a skateboarder. Police spokesman Bruce Borihanh (BORE'-ee-hahn) says the 45-year-old Petty was arrested Saturday night in the Venice neighborhood of Los Angeles. He says the unidentified skateboarder was treated for injuries at the scene. Petty was booked into jail early Sunday and released after posting $100,000 bail. A call to her manager was not immediately returned. Petty was the star of the 1995 movie "Tank Girl" and has also appeared in "Point Break" and "A League of Their Own."

Kimora Lee Simmons, Djimon Hounsou have baby boy

NEW YORK (AP)—It's a boy for former fashion model Kimora Lee Simmons and actor Djimon (JAI'-mon) Hounsou (Hahn-SOO'). Simmons announced the birth Saturday on her Twitter feed. A representative for Simmons says both she and her newborn son are doing great. No further details were immediately available. The 34-year-old Simmons has two daughters with 51-year-old hip-hop mogul Russell Simmons, whom she divorced in 2008 after seven years of marriage. Kimora Lee Simmons is CEO of Phat Fashions, a clothing design company that her ex-husband founded. She has also been the focus of a reality television show and has been a judge on "America's Next Top Model." Benin-born actor Hounsou has been nominated for two Academy Awards, including for his role in "Blood Diamond."

Taylor Lautner arrives at the MTV Movie Awards on Sunday May 31, 2009, in Universal City, Calif.

AP

'New Moon' trailer shows Lautner become werewolf

LOS ANGELES (AP)—"Twilight" fans hungry for a sneak peek at the next installment are getting a good one: The wolf.

During an exclusive premiere of the "New Moon" trailer at the MTV Movie Awards, fans saw Taylor Lautner's teen werewolf Jake transform instantly into a giant, menacing canine.

Lautner had to pack on some muscle for his role in the second installment, and it showed when he appeared shirtless to save Kristen Stewart's Bella from a threatening vampire in the clip.

Stewart, Lautner and costar Robert Pattinson introduced the clip Sunday night at the live telecast.

Wife threatens to spill secret in midst of couple's divorce

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
FROM UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

DearAbby

DEAR ABBY: I am 45 and currently going through a divorce. My soon-to-be ex-wife and I have a 14-year-old daughter, "Gina," and I have custody.

Fourteen years ago, when my wife became pregnant with Gina, we had talked about abortion. We even had an appointment scheduled, but on the day of the appointment we decided not to go through with it. I thank God that we did have our child.

Gina knows nothing about any of this, but my future ex has threatened to tell her. My daughter is mature for her age and intelligent, but I feel the time is not right for her to know. Given the situation, I feel she should hear it from me because of the close relationship we have.

Do you agree that the news should wait until the divorce is final and the dust settles, or should I tell her now?

DADDY WHO CARES

DEAR DADDY: I see no reason your daughter should ever be told that she wasn't planned for and wanted. I cannot think of one single positive thing that being given such news—by either you or your soon-to-be ex—would accomplish.

Your wife may be so filled with anger that she is not in her right mind right now. And if she does pour that poison in your daughter's ear, the antidote is to tell Gina that you thank God for her every day and cannot imagine life without her.

■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: I am in a bit of a muddle. I have had a platonic friendship with "Greg" for four years. He is married, and I have a longtime boyfriend, "Randall."

About a year ago, Greg and I crossed the line into a romantic relationship. I guess you could call it an affair. Greg was unhappy with his marriage, and I was unsettled in my relationship. The affair ended six months ago, along with Greg and my friendship.

I felt so bad about the whole thing that I confessed and apologized to Randall, who (surprisingly) is still with me. He says he loves me. I realized that Randall is very dear to me, and I have no intention of ever repeating this kind of episode again.

As for Greg, I accept that our romantic relationship is over. But I feel sad that our friendship is over, too. He never told me I can't approach him or speak to him again. I don't know how to get our friendship back, if I even can. Can you provide any suggestions?

MUDDLED IN VIRGINIA

DEAR MUDDLED: You are taking a lot for granted. First you are assuming that Greg wants to renew the friendship. You are also assuming that his wife would ever want you in the picture again, and last, you're assuming that Randall would not feel threatened.

Because you have asked for suggestions, I'm happy to offer one: Move on.

■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: Some people find "pennies from heaven"—I find dimes. My late husband once asked me whose image is on the dime, not remembering he had told me it was Franklin Delano Roosevelt (FDR). My husband's initials were also FDR. Knowing my darling watches over us always, I have saved every one I see and now have a box full of them.

ELAINE IN MARYLAND

DEAR ELAINE: Here's my 10 cents worth: If the coins bring you comfort, then the next time you spot one let it serve as a warm reminder that all that glitters is not gold—or even money. Sometimes it's a message from above.

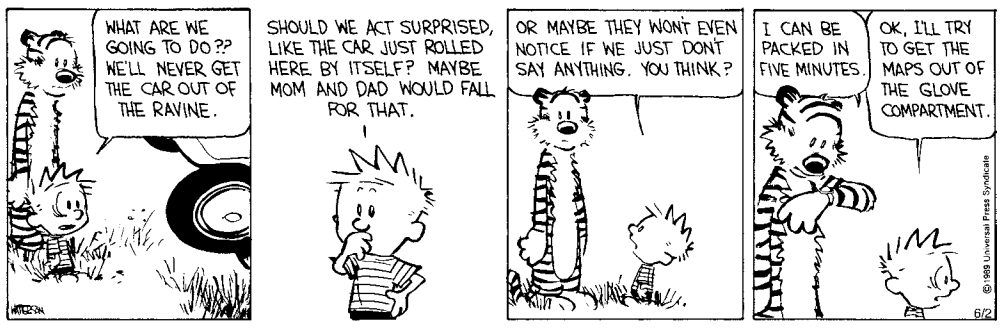
Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Abby shares more than 100 of her favorite recipes in two booklets: "Abby's Favorite Recipes" and "More Favorite Recipes by Dear Abby." Send a business-size, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for $12 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby—Cookbooklet Set, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included in price.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson


WHAT ARE WE GOING TO DO?? WE'LL NEVER GET THE CAR OUT OF THE RAVINE.
SHOULD WE ACT SURPRISED, LIKE THE CAR JUST ROLLED HERE BY ITSELF? MAYBE MOM AND DAD WOULD FALL FOR THAT.
OR MAYBE THEY WON'T EVEN NOTICE IF WE JUST DON'T SAY ANYTHING. YOU THINK?
I CAN BE PACKED IN FIVE MINUTES.
OK, I'LL TRY TO GET THE MAPS OUT OF THE GLOVE COMPARTMENT.
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By Jim Davis

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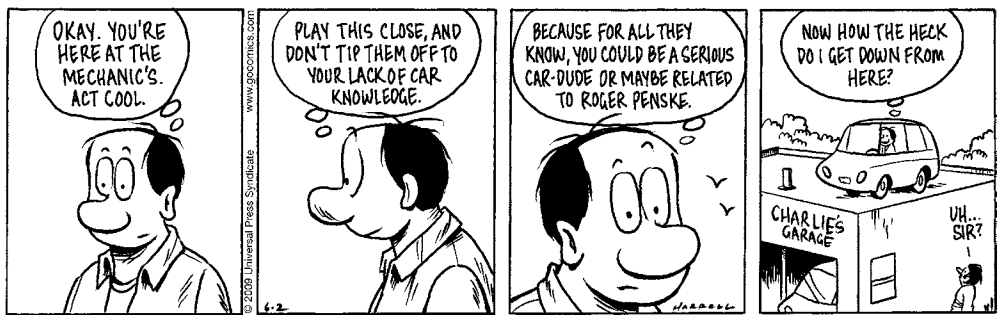
OKAY. YOU'RE HERE AT THE MECHANIC'S. ACT COOL.
PLAY THIS CLOSE, AND DON'T TIP THEM OFF TO YOUR LACK OF CAR KNOWLEDGE.
BECAUSE FOR ALL THEY KNOW, YOU COULD BE A SERIOUS CAR-DUDE OR MAYBE RELATED TO ROGER PENSKE.
NOW HOW THE HECK DO I GET DOWN FROM HERE?
CHARLIE'S GARAGE
UH... SIR?
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6-2

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy

THEY SAY NATURE ABHORS A DUST MOP.
No. NATURE ABHORS A VACUUM.
EVERYONE ABHORS A KNOW-IT-ALL.
2009 Glenn McCoy/Dist. by Universal Press Syndicate
Glenn McCoy
6-2-09

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

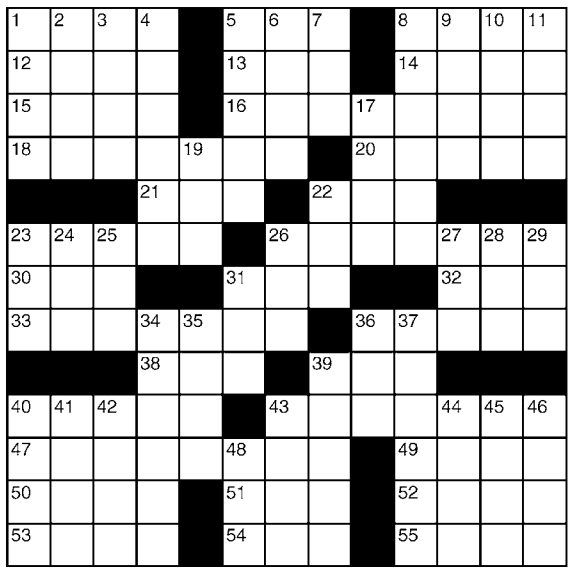
ACROSS
1 Punch
5 Biol. or bot.
8 Pack (down)
12 Vittles ...
13 ... and what to do with them
14 Operatic show-stopper
15 Verdi work
16 Alamo casualty
18 Refuse to buy
20 Moor
21 Possesses
22 Chinese chairman
23 Enthusiast
26 Longtime TV variety star
30 Dance syllable
31 Despondent
32 A billion years
33 1890s heavyweight champ
36 Archipelago part
38 Whatever amount
39 Every crumb
40 Acid type
43 Actor Gould
47 Lots of power?
49 Expanded
50 Press
51 "CSI" evidence
52 Long lunch?
53 Antitoxins
54 Rowing need
55 — River, N.J.

DOWN
1 Wound cover
2 Cleveland's place
3 Buffalo Bill
4 Money of Malawi
5 Religious offshoots
6 Wagon
7 Judge Lance
8 Hire
9 Vicinity
10 Catcher's need
11 Maze option
17 Burn somewhat
19 Sturdy tree
22 Pie ingredient?
23 Gov. agcy.
24 Pi follower
25 Sound receptor
26 Cudgel
27 Conger, for one
28 Pirouette pivot
29 Potent stick
31 Pigpen
34 Potassium source
35 Sufficient, old-style
36 Under the weather
37 Trivial
39 Sacrifice site
40 Parisian pals
41 Unembellished
42 "Young Frankenstein" role
43 Sicilian spouter
44 Sandwich treat
45 Four years in the White House
46 "— company, ..."
48 Commotion

Solution time: 21 mins.

M	E	S	S	■	M	A	P	■	M	E	S	A
O	A	T	H	■	A	N	I	■	E	V	E	S
S	C	A	R	■	S	A	N	D	W	I	C	H
S	H	R	E	D	S	■	G	U	I	L	T	Y
■	■	■	W	E	E	P	■	E	N	D	■	■
S	A	N	D	B	U	R	G	■	G	O	O	D
E	M	U	■	T	R	I	E	D	■	E	N	E
E	P	I	C	■	S	A	N	D	A	R	A	C
■	■	S	O	T	■	M	E	A	N	■	■	■
A	R	A	R	A	T	■	P	Y	T	H	O	N
S	A	N	D	I	E	G	O	■	H	A	R	E
A	R	C	O	■	N	E	O	■	E	T	A	S
P	E	E	N	■	T	E	L	■	M	E	L	T

Yesterday's answer 6-2



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Wayne Brady, 37; Dana Carvey, 54; Marvin Hamlisch, 65; Stacy Keach, 68

Happy Birthday: Don't settle for less when you can have so much more this year. With a little Gemini finesse and planning, you can achieve goals you had given up on in the past. It's a time of new beginnings. Your spark, enthusiasm and uniqueness will carry you through rough times and secure your place for the future. Your numbers are 4, 11, 17, 23, 31, 36, 45

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): Perhaps taking a little time off to let your mind wander and your ideas flow will help you speed up the process of getting things done on time. You never like to be behind but sometimes you do your best work when you are pressed to produce. ✪✪✪

TAURUS (A*pril 20-May 20*): Put the pressure on to finish what you start. It's your accomplishments that will speak volumes about who you are and what you can do, not your complaints. Focus on what counts and show your strengths. ✪✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): You have some interesting opportunities to show your talent. Get out and market who you are and what you can do. Networking will pay off. This is not the time to hold back—speak up and explore what life has to offer. ✪✪✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): Avoid getting sidetracked by someone you respect or care for. Just because you have feelings for someone doesn't mean he or she knows what's best for you. Take hold of your life and don't back down. ✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): You'll get all the help you need if you ask for it. You may need to lean on someone's experience in order to get you through a project that you know little about. What you learn will make a difference in what you do next. ✪✪✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): A challenge can appear to be difficult but, once you take a closer look, you will realize that all you have to do is apply some of your past experience in a unique way to get the job done. A couple of alterations to your life will make a huge difference. ✪✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): Don't be afraid to let your emotions out in the open. Nothing can be resolved if you don't tell it like it is. This is no time to spare someone else's feelings. Do what you have to do. ✪✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): A money matter must be taken care of promptly. Don't be afraid to be a little different. Your creativity and integrity will draw interesting partners and hope for the future. ✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): There is something coming down the pipeline that you aren't expecting. You may want to adjust the way you've been doing things in order to keep up with the times. Raise your standards and prosper. ✪✪✪✪

CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): Someone will give you a hard time if you say something that can be taken the wrong way or that is negative. You have to keep a positive frame of mind. Now is not the time to push loved ones, neighbors or friends. ✪✪

AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): You have more opportunities than you realize. Jump at any chance you get to make changes at home, to your investments or to your personal well-being. You can do anything you set your mind to. ✪✪✪✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): You may want to have some clear-cut talks before you make decisions that won't turn out in your favor. Get what you want in writing. Not everyone will be as forthright or willing to give back. ✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are aggressive and intent on getting things done your way. You are passionate, caring, loyal, adaptable and stubborn.

Eugenia's Web sites: ***astroadvice.com*** *for fun,* ***eugenialast.com*** *for confidential consultations*

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

	2		1			4	6	
3						7		9
					4		2	8
6				9		8		
			6		1			
		9		7				4
9	1		8					
4		6						7
	8	5			7		9	

Difficulty Level ★★ 6/02

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

9	8	3	6	7	1	4	2	5
2	7	6	4	5	8	9	1	3
1	5	4	2	9	3	8	6	7
7	3	9	5	4	6	2	8	1
8	6	5	7	1	2	3	9	4
4	1	2	8	3	9	7	5	6
6	9	7	1	8	4	5	3	2
3	4	1	9	2	5	6	7	8
5	2	8	3	6	7	1	4	9

Difficulty Level ★ 6/01

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

"WHEEL OF FORTUNE" **Solution: 9 letters**

D	R	T	S	D	E	T	S	O	H	T	R	O	W	R
E	E	O	E	T	E	P	O	L	E	V	N	E	O	E
T	C	T	U	L	N	P	L	A	Y	E	R	S	R	V
O	N	N	A	N	E	A	U	E	A	R	N	O	D	E
P	U	V	E	C	D	V	T	S	T	O	E	L	S	A
K	O	O	A	I	I	S	I	S	P	T	C	V	R	L
C	N	W	D	N	D	D	O	S	E	E	E	E	A	S
A	N	E	O	S	N	U	N	B	I	T	E	R	C	S
J	A	L	L	E	D	A	A	(Y)	E	O	N	D	S	P
B	O	S	L	Z	C	N	(U)	M	S	V	N	O	U	S
O	N	S	A	I	K	(B)	A	F	O	E	A	Z	C	P
N	S	G	R	R	A	G	I	L	K	U	Z	L	T	A
U	I	E	U	P	J	N	O	O	N	L	N	I	U	C
S	M	P	E	M	A	N	T	T	E	A	M	T	R	E
A	T	A	S	L	S	N	T	S	E	E	R	F	N	S

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Yesterday's Answer: Humble

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4-time champ Nadal upset by Soderling

AP
Spain's Rafael Nadal tries to get up after taking a tumble while playing against Sweden's Robin Soderling during their fourth round match of the French Open tennis tournament at the Roland Garros stadium in Paris, Sunday May 31, 2009.

PARIS (AP)—For 31 matches, Rafael Nadal ruled the red clay of Roland Garros, boasting an unbeaten record and an unbreakable will.

For 31 matches, this was his surface, his tournament, his time.

For 31 matches, dating to his debut on May 23, 2005, Nadal never truly was challenged, much less defeated, at the French Open, allowing him to win four consecutive titles and close in on becoming the first player in history with five in a row.

Until Sunday. Until the fourth round of the 2009 French Open. Until Robin Soderling, a 24-year-old from Sweden with a bit of an attitude and 6-foot-3 worth of power, transformed Nadal's career mark at Roland Garros from a best-ever 31-0 to 31-1 with 3 1/2 hours of assertive, and sometimes spectacular, play.

"Well, that's the end of the road, and I have to accept it," Nadal said. "I have to accept my defeat as I accepted my victories: with calm."

Simply put, Soderling's 6-2, 6-7 (2), 6-4, 7-6 (2) victory over the No. 1-seeded Nadal rates as one of the biggest upsets in tennis history. Not sure? Set aside all of Nadal's bona fides for a moment—the dominance on clay; the six Grand Slam titles, including at Wimbledon and Australian Open—and focus on this: The 23rd-seeded Soderling never had won so much as a third-round match at any major tournament before this one.

"I kept telling myself, 'This is just another match,'" Soderling said.

Nadal won all three of their previous meetings, including a contentious match at Wimbledon in 2007, and a 6-1, 6-0 rout on clay at Rome in April. But this time, Nadal was a half-step slower than usual—he tumbled to the ground in the third set, smearing clay all over his pink shirt and charcoal shorts—and Soderling was lights-out good.

Soderling finished with 61 winners, 28 more than Nadal, and won the point on 27 of 35 trips to the net.

"One of those days," Nadal said. "I had someone playing very well in front of me."

The stunning result rendered the rest of Sunday's action around the grounds mere footnotes, from reigning French Open women's champion Ana Ivanovic's exit in a 6-2, 6-3 loss to No. 9 Victoria Azarenka of Belarus, to Maria Sharapova's latest three-set victory, to the Williams' sisters loss in doubles.

All that really mattered on this day was Nadal's ouster. In the first round, he broke Bjorn Borg's record of 28 straight French Open wins by a man. In the second, he eclipsed Chris Evert's overall tournament record of 29.

"Everybody's in a state of shock, I would think," said Mats Wilander, a three-time French Open champion who works with Soderling as Sweden's Davis Cup captain. "At some point, Nadal was going to lose. But nobody expected it to happen today, and maybe not this year. Now it's a matter of: There's a tournament to be won."

The biggest beneficiary might be Roger Federer, the 13-time major champion whose resume is missing only a French Open title. Looked at another way, the pressure on Federer to finally win the championship at Roland Garros ratchets far higher. Federer lost to Nadal in each of the past three finals at Roland Garros, and in the 2005 semifinals, too.

"If one guy deserves it," Nadal said, "that's him."

Federer was the last player to even take a set off Nadal at the French Open—all the way back in the 2007 final. Nadal's streak of 32 consecutive sets won at Roland Garros, second only to Borg's record of run 41 from 1978-81, did not last long Sunday.

When Nadal missed a backhand wide, then another into the net, Soderling broke him for the second time to take the first set. That, Soderling would say, was key.

"I felt if I can win one set," he said, "why not the second one, and then the third one?"

Soderling did come within two points of winning the second set, when he led 6-5 and Nadal was serving. Nadal held there, though, then ran away with the ensuing tiebreaker, helped by six unforced errors by Soderling.

That was certainly a moment when Soderling could have folded. Instead, he showed fortitude.

"It takes a serious mind to realize, that, 'Hey, listen, I just lost the second set 7-6 to Nadal, but I am so much better today, and I've just got to stay with him.' And that's, I think, what Robin exactly did," Wilander said.

Nadal's high-bouncing forehands didn't bother Soderling. Soderling's deep groundstrokes and booming serves—at up to 140 mph—troubled Nadal, who stood way behind the baseline. When Soderling served out the third set at love, Nadal had lost two sets in a single French Open match for the first time.

As the fourth-set tiebreaker began, spectators at Court Philippe Chatrier serenaded the underdog with choruses of "Roh-bean!" Others responded, "Ra-fa!" Later, Nadal termed the extra support for Soderling "sad."

Soderling moved ahead 6-1, but Nadal's forehand winner erased the first match point of his French Open career. On the second, Nadal's volley landed wide, the final point of his lone loss at Roland Garros.

"We know that when we walk on the court, we can either win or lose," Nadal said. "No one remembers defeats in the long run. People remember victories. So I have to move forward." He turns 23 on Wednesday, and noted he's accustomed to celebrating his birthday at Roland Garros.

Not this year. About 75 minutes after the match ended, Nadal left the locker room with a couple of gym bags and a white plastic trash bag with other belongings.

He paused at the tournament's player support desk for goodbye kisses, then walked past the transportation desk and said, "Ciao. Merci." Nadal slid into a black sedan that whisked him through the complex's green gate—departing one week earlier than he expected, one week earlier than every other year he's been here.

Lakers carry home-court advantage into NBA finals

LOS ANGELES (AP)—It's going to be Orlando, not Boston, in the NBA finals. Even though the opponent is different, the Los Angeles Lakers are still consumed with redeeming themselves after last year's abject failure.

Their humiliating 131-92 dismissal by the Celtics in Game 6 last year still stings.

"We know what it feels like to lose and we just want to come out there and amend that," coach Phil Jackson said Sunday.

A year ago, Pau Gasol had never played in the NBA finals, so he was excited just to be there.

Not this time.

"The team right now is hungry and focused," he said. "This year we have a mission. It's like, 'OK, we're in the finals, now let's go to work.' It's a big difference."

Another difference is that the Lakers have home-court advantage this year. Games 1 and 2 are Thursday and next Sunday at Staples Center before the best-of-7 series moves to Orlando for up to three games.

"It's nice to have home-court advantage, but it's still not something to rely on in this kind of a series," Jackson said. "Orlando is one of the better road teams in the league the last two years."

No doubt Jackson will remind his team that both Houston and Denver won at Staples in the past two rounds, costing the Lakers home-court advantage.

"That's something you don't want to do in the finals with this kind of 2-3-2 setup," he said. "It's just about trying to get a leg up right off the bat so you have advantage."

After taking Saturday off, the Lakers reconvened Sunday for a video session. Except for Gasol and Derek Fisher, Kobe Bryant and the other starters departed without speaking to the media.

Having played 13 games in 26 days to reach the finals, the Lakers are taking advantage of the six-day break before making one last push at a 16th NBA championship.

"We got really banged up in these last two series," Jackson said. "There are a number of guys that physically could use the days off."

They include Lamar Odom (sore back), Trevor Ariza (sore hip and groin) and Luke Walton (ankle).

"We've been in situations where we had days of rest and then we were a little sluggish at the beginning of a series," Gasol said. "Now there's no slacking, no slipping or nothing. We're ready to start and we're ready to play."

Bryant admitted during the Western Conference finals that he's not sleeping much. He's been sending text messages to Gasol in the wee hours and getting responses.

"We exchanged a couple of text messages making sure we're on the same page," Gasol said. "It just brings us together."

The Lakers' immediate problem is how to contain Dwight Howard. He averaged 21.5 points and 16 rebounds when the Magic swept them in two regular-season games.

"I don't think there have been many players like him because of his physical gifts and attributes," Gasol said. "You have to be really focused on him, don't let him get any deep catches and don't let him get going or confident."

Howard does most of the damage inside, while Rashard Lewis, Hedo Turkoglu, Mickael Pietrus and Rafer Alston are threats from 3-point range.

"It's to your advantage not to double against this team," Jackson said. "They're going to threaten you with that (outside shooting), but really it's their inside game that you have to be concerned about."

Gasol believes the Lakers own an advantage that Cleveland lacked in losing the Eastern Conference finals to the Magic.

"They didn't have that balance of an inside-outside game and we do have that and we will be a tougher matchup," he said. "Let's see if we give them more of an outside shot or we let Dwight go to work a little more and see what he can do. He's becoming a pretty good passer off the post and making smart decisions."

With Orlando's quartet throwing up 3-pointers from all corners of the court, Fisher figures rebounding could be a key difference in the finals.

"There's going to be a lot of long rebounds from the 3-point shots, so for perimeter players especially, we'll have to make sure we're getting in there and grabbing a few extra ones," he said.

LeBron happy in Cleveland despite loss

INDEPENDENCE, Ohio (AP)—LeBron James finally talked about not making the NBA finals, and insists Cleveland's loss to Orlando will not impact his future with the Cavaliers.

James stormed out of Amway Arena without speaking to the media Saturday night after the Cavs were eliminated with a 103-90 loss to the Magic in Game 6 of the Eastern Conference finals. The league MVP, who also did not shake hands with Olympic teammate Dwight Howard or congratulate any Orlando players as he left the floor, said Sunday that he's happy in Cleveland and feels the Cavs made major progress this season.

"I'm great. I feel great about this situation that's going on," James said. "You want to continue to get better, that's all you can ask. We got better and I feel this team will be better next season. You don't want to take a step backward. I think we went forward from the Boston series (a Game 7 loss in the semis) last year."

"Hopefully we can go forward next year."

The Cavaliers won 66 regular-season games and their second Central Division title this season.

James, who averaged 38.5 points, 8.3 rebounds and 8.0 assists against Orlando, said he hasn't given any thought to signing a contract extension with the Cavs this summer.

Stricker wins Colonial on second playoff hole

FORT WORTH, Texas (AP)—Steve Stricker blew a final-round lead right after he took it and gave away another stroke by missing a short par putt down the stretch.

Stricker stayed at it, though. A chip-in birdie on 17 helped him get in a three-man playoff. Then, lucky to be playing a second extra hole, he put his approach just 3 feet from the cup and knocked it right in to win the Crowne Plaza Invitational.

Admirable as it may be, the real story Sunday was how Tim Clark blew this tournament.

Trying to shed his title as the guy who'd won the most money on the PGA Tour without winning an event, Clark wasted a two-shot lead with five holes left. He left short a 9-foot putt that would've won it on the final hole, then pulled a 7-footer that would've ended the playoff on the first hole. The final kick in the gut came when his approach on the second extra hole hit the pin and rolled more than 20 feet from the cup.

"I can't take anything positive from today," the 33-year-old South African said. "I have a lot of work to do when it comes to closing out golf tournaments."

Stricker's victory was pure relief, as evidence by his fist pump and choked-up interviews afterward. It's not that he questioned his ability to close out tournaments, he was just ready to win after finishing second, third, fourth, sixth and seventh this year.

Now he has five career wins—and the No. 8 spot in the world ranking.

"I feel fortunate," Stricker said, wearing the plaid jacket given to all winners at the Colonial Country Club. "I've been on the other end a couple times this year where you feel going to win and end up losing. This feels very good."

Stricker, who earned $1,116,000, led after two rounds with a 36-hole tournament record of 126. He moved back ahead with birdies on Nos. 5 and 6 on Sunday, then followed with consecutive bogeys.

When he missed a 4-footer on No. 16, Stricker seemed out of contention. His chances looked even worse when he was in fluffy grass behind the 17th green.

Then his chip rolled in.

"You need breaks to win, that's why winning is so special, so hard to do," he said.

Steve Marino was the third player in the playoff. He narrowly missed a long birdie putt on the first extra hole, then pretty much took himself out of contention with a wild tee shot on the second extra hole. Colonial would've been a sweet place for his debut win considering his mom grew up a few blocks away and was in the gallery with a group of her childhood friends.

AP

Steve Stricker holds the Leonard Trophy after winning the Colonial golf tournament with a birdie putt on the second playoff hole, Sunday, May 31, 2009 in Fort Worth, Texas.

"Obviously it's disappointing," Marino said. "But I'm playing well right now and I'm excited about playing golf and feel good about my game."

Stricker and Marino shot 68s to match Clark (70) at 17-under 263.

Jason Day, a 21-year-old Australian who recently became a Colonial member, shot 69 and finished fourth at 264. He shot 65 in the other three rounds, but started with a bogey and wound up a stroke out of the playoff.

Another stroke back was Paul Casey, coming off a prestigious win in Europe that vaulted him to No. 3 in the world ranking. He opened the final round with three straight birdies but couldn't build on it much.

Woody Austin (68) and Vijay Singh (69) tied for sixth at 14 under.

Clark's foibles on the 18th hole—in regulation, then in the playoffs—sent the playoff to No. 17, a hole Stricker already had birdied three times in four rounds.

His fourth birdie there was the charm.

"This is what my whole career has been about up. I've had to pull myself up when something hasn't gone my way," Stricker said. "You have to let it roll off your back."

Maybe one day, Clark can. Not now.

Not after being tied for the tournament record with five holes to play. Not after being the tournament's most accurate driver to that point and then knocking two tee shots into trouble.

Not after all those foul-ups turned 0-for-183 into 0-for-184 and the seventh second-place finish of his career. The last one came last year at this event, when Phil Mickelson made a spectacular shot for birdie on the final hole.

Not even being reminded of his valiant final approach could lift his spirits.

"Bad break or not, the tournament should have ended on the first playoff hole," Clark said. "I didn't make a confident stroke and I pulled it."

The $545,600 in winnings, which upped his career total to almost $13.3 million, would be a mood-lifter.

But considering his unwanted claim to fame, that's both good and bad.

Peralta has 3 RBIs, Tribe rallies past Yankees

CLEVELAND (AP)—Jhonny Peralta drove in three runs, including the winning single with one out in the ninth inning to help the Cleveland Indians defeat the New York Yankees 5-4 on Sunday.

Peralta lined a 3-1 pitch from David Robertson past diving third baseman Alex Rodriguez on the backhand side to score Trevor Crowe from second base.

Red Sox 8, Blue Jays 2

At Toronto, Kevin Youkilis homered twice, Dustin Pedroia hit a three-run shot and Jon Lester struck out a career-high 12 as the Red Sox beat the Blue Jays.

Jason Bay also homered for the Red Sox, who used a new-look lineup to shake themselves out of a recent offensive slump. Nine of Boston's 11 hits were for extra-bases.

Tigers 3, Orioles 0

At Baltimore, Edwin Jackson allowed two hits over eight innings, Curtis Granderson homered, and the Tigers beat the Orioles to earn a split of the four-game series.

Jackson (5-3) permitted only three baserunners and faced only two batters over the minimum. Nick Markakis hit a fourth-inning single; Robert Andino walked in the sixth and was caught stealing; and Ty Wigginton doubled in the eighth.

Twins 3, Rays 2

At St. Petersburg, Fla., Brendan Harris homered and Justin Morneau and Carlos Gomez also drove in runs to help the Twins avoid a weekend sweep with a victory over the Rays.

Nick Blackburn (5-2) pitched six strong innings, allowing two runs and seven hits, and the Twins scored all their runs off Matt Garza (4-4) to beat their former teammate and end a three-game losing streak.

Athletics 5, Rangers 4

At Arlington, Texas, Adam Kennedy homered twice, including a one-out tiebreaker in the ninth for the first run allowed by Texas reliever Frank Francisco this season, and the Athletics ended a four-game skid with a victory over the AL West-leading Rangers.

With the game tied, Kennedy hit a 1-0 pitch off Francisco (1-1) into the right field seats, ending a streak of 28 appearances without allowing an earned run. Francisco had 17 2-3 scoreless innings in his first 17 appearances this season, the most in the majors without allowing a run.

White Sox 7, Royals 4

At Kansas City, Mo., Chris Getz hit a tiebreaking two-run single off Juan Cruz in the ninth inning, and the White Sox rallied past the Royals for their first three-game sweep in Kansas City since 2005.

The Royals bullpen squandered another respectable start by Zack Greinke, who had been only the third pitcher since 1920 with a sub-1.00 ERA 10 starts into a season.

Angels 9, Mariners 8

At Anaheim, Calif., Kendry Morales capped a three-run ninth inning with a bases-loaded RBI single and the Los Angeles Angels overcame a seven-run deficit to beat the Seattle Mariners 9-8 on Sunday and avoid a three-game sweep.

Seattle closer David Aardsma (1-2), who had converted all eight of his save chances and hadn't allowed a run in 14 1-3 innings, failed to protect an 8-6 lead for starter Garrett Olson.

Phillies 4, Nationals 2

At Philadelphia, Jamie Moyer went six strong innings to win his 250th career game, and the Philadelphia Phillies won their third straight game over the bumbling Washington Nationals.

The 46-year-old Moyer is the 44th player to win 250 games, and only the 11th left-hander to joint he exclusive list. It was his sixth try at 250 after going winless in his last five outings while allowing 38 hits and 26 earned runs in 24 1-3 innings.

Dodgers 8, Cubs 2

At Chicago, Eric Milton pitched into the sixth inning for his second straight win, and Los Angeles backed him with a five-run first while beating Chicago to salvage a four-game split.

Matt Kemp hit his sixth homer and finished with two hits. Rafael Furcal, Russell Martin, Mark Loretta and James Loney each added two apiece as the Dodgers banged out 12 in all, and Los Angeles finished a 5-2 trip with an easy win after getting pounded 7-0 and shut out for the first time the previous day.

Astros 2, Pirates 1

At Pittsburgh, Mike Hampton continued his mastery over the Pittsburgh Pirates, allowing only one run in seven innings in Houston's win.

Hampton became only the second pitcher to win eight in a row against the Pirates since 1954. He improved to 12-3 lifetime against Pittsburgh and has won eight straight since May 9, 2000. Only the Braves' Tom Glavine has had a streak that long against the Pirates in the past 55 years.

Padres 5, Rockies 2

At Denver, Adrian Gonzalez hit his major-league leading 20th home run, Chad Gaudin struck out a season-high nine and the Padres beat the Rockies.

Brad Hawpe and Yorvit Torrealba had two hits each for Colorado, which lost for the first time under interim manager Jim Tracy, who replaced the fired Clint Hurdle on Friday.

Brewers 5, Reds 2

At Milwaukee, Mike Cameron homered and Yovani Gallardo won his fifth game as the Brewers swept the three-game series from the Reds.

It wasn't quite the gem Gallardo (5-2) threw on Monday against St. Louis when the right-hander had a no-hitter going into the sixth and finished allowing two hits in eight shutout innings, but he was good enough against Cincinnati.

Mets 3, Marlins 2

At New York, John Maine shut down Florida again before becoming the latest Mets player sidelined by sickness or injury, and New York held off the Marlins to cap a highly successful month.

David Wright made a diving grab to start a rally-killing double play, and the Mets completed a 5-1 homestand to finish 19-9 in May. After taking two of three from Florida, they have won 11 of the past 14 games at their new home, Citi Field.

Giants 5, Cardinals 3

At San Francisco, Rich Aurilia hit his first home run of the season to give San Francisco the lead in the seventh, Aaron Rowand(notes) doubled and scored twice and the Giants took the rubber game from the Cardinals.

The victory gave the Giants a winning month of May at 15-14 and a 5-1 homestand.

Braves 9, Diamondbacks 3

At Phoenix, Chipper Jones homered and drove in four runs, Garrett Anderson hit his first home run with the Braves, and Atlanta routed the Diamondbacks.

Kris Medlen (1-2) was dominant for Atlanta, allowing one run over six innings for his first career win. Medlen struck out eight and retired 14 of the first 16 batters he faced.

Legends rule Masters caging

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

The C.K. Legends pose with their championship trophy after beating MDX-Armatech in the finals of the Navy Hill Masters caging last Sunday at the Garapan Basketball Court.

The Chalan Kanoa Legends capped their perfect season in the 2009 Navy Hill Friendship Basketball League with an 84-73 title win over MDX-Armatech last Sunday at the Garapan Basketball Court.

Big man Ronald Delos Reyes delivered the killer blows for the Legends, firing 15 points in the fourth quarter when MDX was threatening a comeback.

The Legends led by as much as 18 points in the second period, 45-27, before MDX slowly worked its way back into contention, cutting the lead to eight at the end of the third period, 51-59.

Delos Reyes started the fourth canto with an underneath basket, while MDX committed back-to-back errors and these spelled trouble for the trailing squad.

Delos Reyes' presence in the paint, occasional jumpers, and impressive free throw shooting allowed the Legends to foil MDX's repeated comeback bids.

MDX threatened for the last time in the last four minutes of the game, moving within nine, 64-73, but Delos Reyes was at it again, going strong to the basket, making a layup, and drawing a foul from Bong Malasarte.

Delos Reyes failed to complete the three-point play, but made another undergoal basket to give the Legends a 77-64 lead, entering the final three minutes of the game.

Delos Reyes finished with 29 points and was awarded the Finals MVP trophy.

Jun Tabora also scored in double figures with 23 points and his timely baskets in the third period prevented MDX from moving closer.

MDX was unsuccessful in stealing the lead in the third period, as it either lost the ball in fastbreak plays several times or its attempts to the baskets often fell short.

Bernardo Montano led MDX with 17 points, but was held to only two triples and three free throws in the payoff period. Martin Moreno chipped in 16, but he and Butch Sublemente muffed several easy layups. Sublemente made only eight points and had only two fieldgoals.

With Ed Palma and Tabora combinining for 15 points in the first quarter, the Legends took a 25-17 lead. Delos Reyes then found his mark in the second period to make it a big 18-point advantage at halftime, 45-27. Delos Reyes slowed down in the third, drilling only a basket, but poured it all in the final canto to give the Legends the championship.

C.K. Legends 84 – Delos Reyes 29, Tabora 23, Palma 19, Manipon 6, Cantos 5, Zapata 2, Hernandez 2.

MDX 73 – Montano 17, Martin 16, Galulu 9, Sublemente 8, Singca 8, Castro 7, Samson 4, Malasarte 3.

Scoring by quarters: 25-17, 45-27, 59-51, 84-73.

HEO

From Page 28

6-2, 4-6, 6-4

In the men's 40-and-above finale, Cajigan also needed three sets to down Dong Min Lee, 6-1, 1-6, 6-3.

The women's 3.0 singles also went to three sets with Eda prevailing over Lihua Liang, 6-2, 2-6, 6-1, while Santos had a lucky break in the women's 40-and-above finals when Matty Buenaventura retired after winning the first set, 7-5, and the second set tied at 4-all.

In the juniors doubles, sisters Thea and Theecel Minor triumphed over Johnson and Fernandez in the girls' U16 finals, 6-4, 6-3.

The boys' U16 title went to Chang and Sung Hoon Ham, who defeated Rafael Jones and Andy Nutting in the finals, 6-2, 6-1.

In the boys' U12 finals, Colin Ramsey teamed up with Chris Park and they won over Carl Dela Cruz and Moris Villanueva in straight sets, 6-3, 6-2..

The pair of Alina Ishikawa and Mikayla Lopez survived the tandem of Gabrielle Race and Emily Jones in the girls' U12 finals, 6-4, 4-6, 6-1.

The men's 4.0 title game, which was set for the first week of the tournament, was played last week with Ronnie Lacbayo and Richard Asuncion winning over Chuck Sayon and Hee Seung Kim, 6-3, 3-6, 6-3.

RECORD

From Page 28

cause these young players are the future of the CNMI National Team. He said these young players may be playing for fun right now, but several years from now and with guidance from well-trained coaches, they will become good players and make CNMI football proud.

Joining Tan in giving inspiration messages at the ceremony were Northern Marianas Amateur Sports Association president Michael White and Department of Public Health medical director Richard Brostrom.

White encouraged players to keep playing fair no matter what sport they are playing.

"You are playing against your brothers and sisters, and your friends, so keep playing fair," said White, who also lauded family involvement in the youth football league.

Brostrom reiterated the importance of getting involved in any sports at a young age and keeping the youth away from smoking, drinking, and other vices.

"If you do any of these habits, it will be hard for you do good in any sports you are involved with. Let us continue having a healthy living through involvement in sports," Brostrom said.

Before the ceremony, which featured the parade of NMIFA, FIFA, and CNMI flags, the youth football festival kicked off with simultaneously games in the U6, U8, and U10 games in the morning.

In the afternoon, U13 games were played with MP United 1 and Matansa winning the boys and girls championships, respectively. A perpetual trophy was awarded to each champion team.

Other clubs that participated in the youth football festival were Independents Football Club, Paire Football Club, and new member Tan Holdings Football Club.

THE BIG HIT

From Page 28

Fitial took on Koji Kanechika of Japan in one of the 12 fights in Art of War 12 held last May 23 at the Beijing Olympic Sports Center Auditorium. The two fought in the over 96-kg. division.

Kanechika is a wrestler as well as a trained judo fighter. The end for Fitial came at the 1:27 mark of the second round when he surrendered after Kanechika caught him in an armbar.

The win upped Kanechika's win-loss record to 3-2 record, while the loss dropped Fitial's to 18 wins, seven losses, and a draw.

The loss marred Fitial's erstwhile undefeated record in China. He fought in Art of War 10 in 2007 and knocked out China's Li Zhi Feng.

The following are the other Art of War 12 results:

■ Wu Hao Tian defeated Yutaka Kobayashi by technical knockout (strikes) at 1:39 of the first round;

■ Rolles Gracie defeated Baga Agaev by submission (rear-naked choke) at 5:09 of the first round;

■ Dai Shuang Hai vs. Atsuhiro Tsuboi was ruled a draw;

■ Fransino Tirta defeated Malik Arash by technical knockout (cut stoppage) at 5:58 of the first round;

■ Ning Guang You def. Sirojiddin Izakbaev by Submission (Rear Naked Choke) at 4:51 of the first round;

■ Ole Laursen defeated Shawn David by knockout at 3:39 of the first round;

■ Marko Huusansaari defeated Xue Guo Bin by submission (rear-naked choke) at 3:06 of the first round;

■ Chris Bostick defeated Kim Ho Jin by submission (arm triangle) at 2:42 of the first round;

■ Wang Sai defeated Kim Whi Gyu by submission (rear-naked choke) at 1:59 of the first round;

■ Justin Holdaas defeated Lee Hyeung Seok by technical knockout (strikes) at 7:22 of the first round; and

■ Yao Qiang defeated Nemat Bobomukhamedov by technical knockout (strikes) at 1:47 of the first round.

China's Art of War is one of the most watched mixed martial arts events in the world. It was established in 2004, promoted by Adoria Entertainment Group, and is mainland China's premier mixed martial arts promotion. The Art of War Fighting Championship is broadcasted via satellite nationwide to a network coverage of 300 million viewers.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

MLB STANDINGS

AMERICAN LEAGUE

East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
New York	29	21	.580	-
Boston	29	22	.569	1/2
Toronto	29	24	.547	1 1/2
Tampa Bay	25	28	.472	5 1/2
Baltimore	23	28	.451	6 1/2

Central Division

Detroit	28	21	.571	-
Chicago	24	24	.500	3 1/2
Minnesota	25	27	.481	4 1/2
Kansas City	23	27	.460	5 1/2
Cleveland	22	30	.423	7 1/2

West Division

Texas	30	20	.600	-
Los Angeles	25	24	.510	4 1/2
Seattle	23	27	.460	7
Oakland	19	29	.396	10

NATIONAL LEAGUE

East Division

Philadelphia	28	20	.583	-
New York	28	21	.571	1/2
Atlanta	25	25	.500	4
Florida	23	28	.451	6 1/2
Washington	13	36	.265	15 1/2

Central Division

Milwaukee	30	20	.600	-
St. Louis	29	21	.580	1
Cincinnati	26	23	.531	3 1/2
Chicago	25	24	.510	4 1/2
Pittsburgh	22	28	.440	8
Houston	20	28	.417	9

West Division

Los Angeles	35	17	.673	-
San Francisco	25	24	.510	8 1/2
San Diego	25	25	.500	9
Arizona	22	29	.431	12 1/2
Colorado	20	29	.408	13 1/2

Yesterday's Games

N.Y. Mets 3, Florida 2
Houston 2, Pittsburgh 1
Philadelphia 4, Washington 2
Milwaukee 5, Cincinnati 2
San Diego 5, Colorado 2
San Francisco 5, St. Louis 3
Atlanta 9, Arizona 3
L.A. Dodgers 8, Chicago Cubs 2
Cleveland 5, N.Y. Yankees 4
Boston 8, Toronto 2
Detroit 3, Baltimore 0
Minnesota 3, Tampa Bay 2
Chicago White Sox 7, Kansas City 4
Oakland 5, Texas 4
L.A. Angels 9, Seattle 8

CROWNE PLAZA INVITATIONAL LEADERBOARD

FINAL ROUND

x-Steve Stricker	63	63	69	68	263
Tim Clark	63	64	66	70	263
Steve Marino	66	67	62	68	263
Jason Day	65	65	65	69	264
Paul Casey	66	67	66	66	265
Woody Austin	63	68	67	68	266
Vijay Singh	64	64	69	69	266
Ian Poulter	66	69	65	68	268
Jim Furyk	68	69	67	65	269
Zach Johnson	69	67	64	69	269
Kevin Na	66	68	66	69	269
Kevin Sutherland	66	67	68	68	269
Luke Donald	68	65	67	70	270
Tom Lehman	68	69	66	67	270
Justin Leonard	66	68	64	72	270
Jeff Overton	69	67	65	69	270
Charlie Wi	67	70	66	67	270
Sean O'Hair	65	64	70	72	271
Corey Pavin	71	69	66	65	271
Ted Purdy	69	65	66	71	271
John Senden	68	67	67	69	271
Jason Bohn	69	65	68	70	272
Stewart Cink	71	66	68	67	272
J.J. Henry	71	68	67	66	272
Nick O'Hern	69	69	66	68	272
Mark Wilson	67	71	66	68	272
Stephen Ames	68	68	67	70	273
James Driscoll	69	64	70	70	273
Harrison Frazar	67	69	66	71	273
Brian Gay	68	71	70	64	273
Matt Kuchar	70	68	65	70	273
Hunter Mahan	69	67	68	69	273
David Toms	67	72	65	69	273
Brian Davis	69	68	70	67	274
Tim Herron	71	65	66	72	274
Ryan Palmer	69	63	70	72	274
Kenny Perry	64	72	68	70	274
Justin Rose	69	69	70	66	274
Rory Sabbatini	71	69	69	65	274
Scott Verplank	70	68	68	68	274
Bob Estes	71	66	68	70	275
Lucas Glover	70	65	66	74	275
Brandt Jobe	71	69	66	69	275
George McNeill	68	70	68	69	275
Kevin Streelman	68	70	66	71	275
Matt Bettencourt	69	70	68	69	276
Michael Bradley	70	67	73	66	276
Bart Bryant	70	68	67	71	276
Ben Crane	71	68	70	67	276
Chris DiMarco	69	71	67	69	276
Charley Hoffman	73	67	65	71	276
Fredrik Jacobson	68	70	66	72	276
Danny Lee	69	67	71	69	276
Dudley Hart	74	66	68	69	277
Anthony Kim	69	68	68	72	277
James Nitties	67	68	70	72	277
Tom Pernice Jr.	69	67	70	71	277
Heath Slocum	69	71	68	69	277
Jason Dufner	69	71	65	73	278
Rocco Mediate	67	70	69	72	278
Geoff Ogilvy	70	67	67	74	278
Greg Owen	68	69	69	72	278
Bo Van Pelt	71	69	69	69	278
Tommy Armour III	67	72	68	72	279
Carl Pettersson	71	68	69	71	279
Adam Scott	68	71	69	71	279
Mike Weir	69	67	72	71	279
Derek Fathauer	68	69	70	73	280
Richard S. Johnson	71	69	70	70	280
Rod Pampling	73	66	67	74	280
Ryuji Imada	69	68	73	71	281
Chez Reavie	72	68	70	71	281
John Rollins	70	67	71	73	281
John Merrick	71	68	71	75	285

x-won on a playoff hole

By The Associated Press

VISMINDA

From Page 28

Bayani, 91-99, last Thursday.

Artates, Gamboa, and Bicera, who saw limited minutes in VisMinda's debut, started in last Sunday's game and combined for 15 points in the first quarter. Artates tallied eight points and lifted VisMinda to a 23-12 lead after 10 minutes of play.

Gil Gapor single-handedly carried NMBA on his shoulders, as the team was without gunner Jun Estolas, who came in late for the game and started playing only in the second half.

With NMBA still looking for form and missing key players, VisMinda began pulling away in the second period.

Bicera, who had only two points in the first period, nailed 10 in the second canto, while Gamboa fired five points, anew to give VisMinda a 50-32 halftime lead.

Estolas started for NMBA in the second half and canned three triples, but these were not enough to bring his team back into the game. The closest that NMBA could get was within seven points in the first few minutes of the fourth period before Errol Peredo and Gamboa widened the gap several times on their short jumpers and layups.

Gamboa top-scored for VisMinda with 22 points, while Peredo chipped in 17. Bicera and Artates finished with 15 and 14 markers, respectively, while J.R. Barrios contributed 10.

Gapor paced NMBA with 23 markers. Estolas logged 15, George De Guzman had 14, and Bernard Aquino and Mike Umali tallied 13 and 11, respectively.

The Marvin Deocares-coached NMBA listed only 10 players in its debut with veteran Melvin Villarin and newcomer Ernie Domingo missing the game.

VisMinda 90 – Gamboa 22, Peredo 17, Bicera 15, Artates 14, Barrios 10, Dayrit 6, Montano 4, Joyner 3, Mercurio 2, Veloso 1.

NMBA 79 – Gapor 23, Estolas 15, De Guzman 14, Aquino 13, Umali 11, Abuan 3.

Scoring by quarters: 23-12, 50-32, 65-55, 90-79.

7th UFO Inter-Organizational Basketball League

PHOTOS By ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Bayani took the Best in Uniform award during the opening ceremony.

Philippine consul general Wilfredo Deleon Maximo leads the ceremonial toss for the opening game in the 7th United Filipino Organization Inter-Organizational Basketball League between SMF and Cabalen on May 24 at the JP Center Basketball Court in Garapan.

Cabalen's Pebbles Basilgo won the Best Muse contest.

Members and muses of VisMinda sing the Philippine national anthem.

MDX's Wowie Abuel, right, pulls up for a triple against the outstretched arms of SIP's Badong Camacho during the second game in the opening day of the UFO caging.

Defending champion Samahang Ilokano at Pangasinense was the first one to enter the court.

Philippine consul general Wilfredo Deleon Maximo, fourth right, and Jerry Tan, third left, join several members and officials of United Filipino Organization for a group photo during the opening ceremony of the league.

Scorers Bonbon Cadagat, left, and Sonny Lerio, center, are joining forces with young guns Jomary Tumaquip, second right, and Jericho Cruz, right, for Samahang Manggagawang Filipino.

Northern Marianas Bartenders Association (in red uniforms) and Cabalen players listen to UFO president Olive Yana's welcome remarks delivered during the opening ceremony of the league.

Members of MDX-Chow Queen recite the pledge of sportsmanship.

Legends rule Masters caging

The Chalan Kanoa Legends capped their perfect season in the 2009 Navy Hill Friendship Basketball League with an 84-73 title win over MDX-Armatech last Sunday at the Garapan Basketball Court. **26**

Saipan Tribune
Sports

4-time champ Nadal upset by Soderling

For 31 matches, Rafael Nadal ruled the red clay of Roland Garros, boasting an unbeaten record and an unbreakable will. **24**

Heo tops Schuler in rematch

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

CNMI junior netter Ji Hoon Heo improved his head-to-head record against former Drake University standout Kirk Schuler to 2-0 after pulling off a straight set win in their title game in the men's open singles division of the 2009 DFS Micronesian Tennis Championships Sunday at the Pacific Islands Club hard courts.

Heo, who defeated Schuler in the same event in last month's 9th Annual PIC Tennis Championships, made it two in a row after a 6-2, 7-5 triumph in Sunday's finale.

The 17-year-old CNMI netter advanced to the title game after outclassing CNMI coach Jeff Race in the semifinals, 6-2, 6-4. Race stunned former junior player and three-time CNMI junior championship winner Hee Seung Kim, 6-1, 6-4, in the quarterfinals. Heo won his first match over Woo Suk Chang, 6-1, 6-0.

In the lower bracket of the men's open singles draw, Schuler shut out Tomonori Imazato, 6-0, 6-0, to arrange a semis tiff against another former CNMI junior player, Nicolas Son. Son downed Peter Loken, 6-1, 6-4, to move into the semifinals.

In the round-robin women's open singles, 13-year-old Thea Minor bested three other players. Minor had the women's open singles title in the bag after beating eventual runner-up and fellow junior player Melody Johnson, 6-2, 6-1. Jodel Fernandez and Kinumi Taniguchi were the two other participants in the women's open singles.

Christian Miller became the third junior player to secure a championship in the adults singles. He thwarted Diony Peralta in the men's 3.0 singles finals in three sets. Miller lost the opening set, 2-6, but stunned Peralta in the second set with an impressive 6-0 win. The CNMI boys' 14-and-under player completed the come-from-behind victory with a 6-3 triumph in the deciding third set.

Other singles winners in the second and final week of the two-weekend tournament were Hector Benitez, Fernando Cajigan, Sakiko Eda, and Cleofe Santos.

Benitez foiled a fourth win for the CNMI Junior Team when he outlasted Rafael Jones in the men's 4.0 singles finals,

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ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Ji Hoon Heo, right, and Kirk Schuler, seen here shaking hands after their title match in last month's PIC tournament, had a rematch last Sunday with Heo winning, anew, in the men's open singles finals in the DFS netfest.

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Koji Kanechika of Japan has Kelvin "The Big Hit" Fitial in an arm bar in the second round of their 96-kg. division match in Art of War 12 "Invincible Fight" held last May 23 at the Beijing Olympic Sports Center Auditorium.

'The Big Hit' loses in return to China

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSISTANT EDITOR

Kelvin "The Big Hit" Fitial lost in his return to China last month when he submitted in the second round to his Japanese opponent in Art of War 12 "Invincible Fight."

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VisMinda bounces back, downs NMBA

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

VisMinda recovered from its debut loss in the 7th United Filipino Organization Inter-Organizational Basketball League via a 90-79 triumph over Northern Marianas Bartenders Association last Sunday at JP Center Basketball Court in Garapan.

VisMinda drew good games from reserves Ronnel Gamboa, John Artates, and Danny Bicera to put the team in the win column after losing to

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ROSELYN B. MONROYO

VisMinda's John Artates struggles to pick up a looseball against NMBA's Emir Abuan during their game in the UFO caging last Sunday at the JP Center Basketball Court in Garapan.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Paire Football Club, right, and Matansa players and coaches exchange high fives after their game in the U13 division of the 2009 NMIFA Youth Football Festival last Saturday at the Hopwood Junior High School Field.

Record field in youth football festival

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The 2009 NMIFA Youth Football Festival drew a record of more than 500 players, making Northern Mariana Islands Football Association president Jerry Tan upbeat about the chances of having a bigger field next year.

"When we had the festival last year, we had more than 300 youth players, now we have more than 500. Next year, I am positive we will get more, as more parents, more companies, and more kids are getting involved with the sport of football. Every year, we are growing and thanks to all those who are helping promote football in the CNMI," Tan said in a brief welcome remarks during the opening ceremony of the festival at the Hopwood Junior High School Field last Saturday.

Tan added having more than 500 players, aged six to 18, is good news for a young football association like NMIFA be-

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